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AGAWAM Advertiser-News

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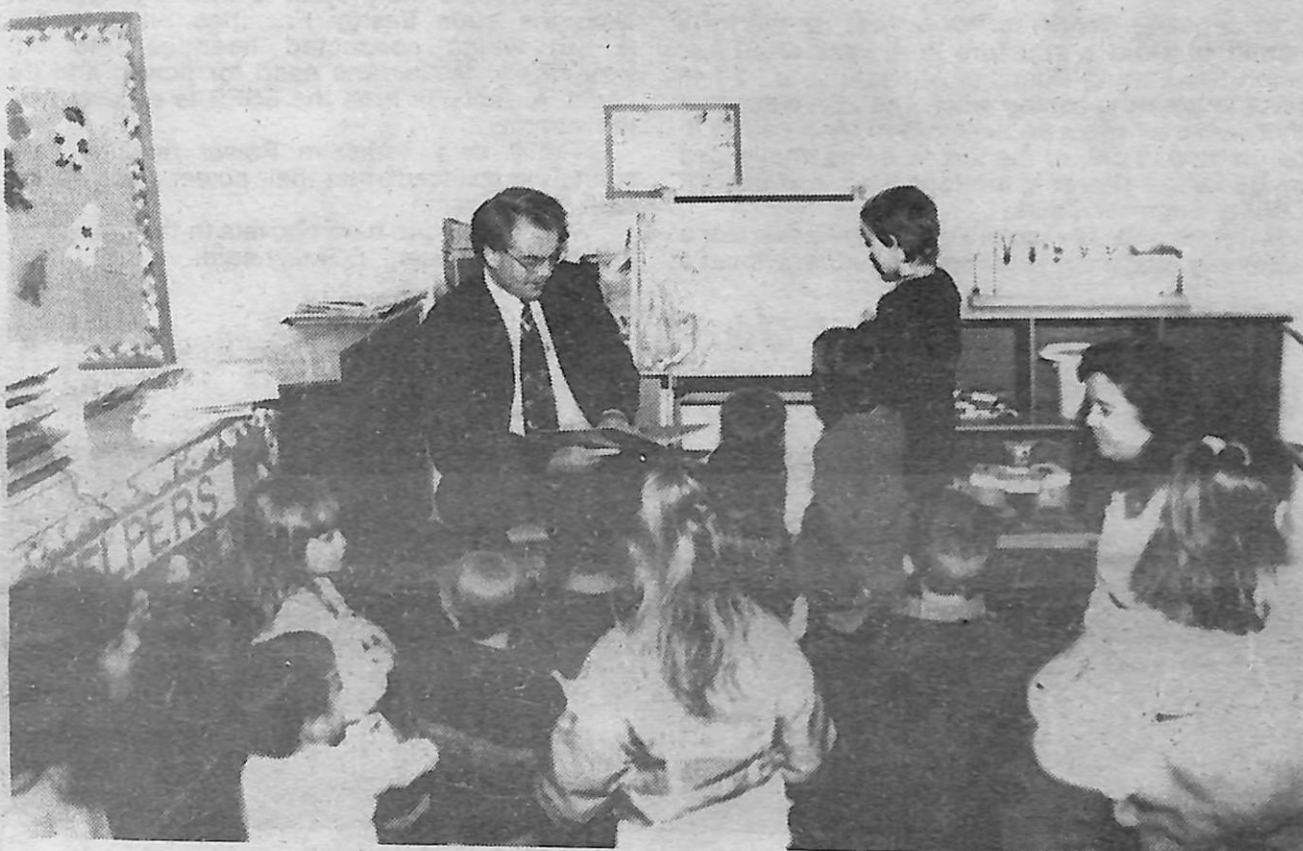
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Volume XIX Number 10

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

March 7, 1996

Giving Kids A "Head Start" In Reading...



MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON recently volunteered his time to read to the youngsters in the town's "Head Start" program. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Local Scouts Demonstrate Their "Salute"...



THE WEBELOS OF PACK 85 perform their scouting salute during a meeting held on March 1st at Agawam United Methodist Church. (See related photo and story on Page 14.) Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Power Plant Gets Further Approval By State Agency

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Power plant developers say it's "another significant milestone" in the permitting process. Opponents say it won't make any difference because the stack's still too tall.

Late Tuesday afternoon, Berkshire Power announced the certification of its Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) by the Secretary of Environmental Affairs.

In the certification, Secretary Trudy Cox states, "The FEIR has adequately addressed the issues raised in the Certificate on the DEIR (Draft Environmental Impact Report) and in the comments on the DEIR."

As the final review of the power plant by the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs, the FEIR encompasses all environmental aspects of the project, including responses to the questions raised in the DEIR and by the general public.

The FEIR addresses environmental issues, including air quality, visual impacts, agricultural impacts, and water usage.

SEE POWER PLANT - Page 2...

New School Budget Released; Seeks Hike Of \$1.1 Million For '97

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Last week, School Superintendent Bernard F. Ryder released the first-view school budget for the upcoming 1997 fiscal year, July 1996 through June 1997.

Ryder said he is confident that his budget request of \$18,673,193, up \$1.1 million over last year, will survive the budget review process intact and will eventually be approved by the School Committee.

"I expect the budget will be approved," Ryder said. "But, there may be some conversation on the individual cost centers."

Ryder said his budget supports the requests made by the school system's building principals for materials and supplies. However, not all requests for additional staffing proposals have been included in the budget.

Ryder said his budget supports the request of the acting Agawam High School principal for an additional social studies teacher, an additional English teacher, and a security person to make certain the school's parking lot and hallways are supervised.

Although the High School security officer was not included in the budget document submitted to the School Committee, Ryder said he will ask for the transfer of \$13,000 to fund the position.

Ryder said the details of the position had not yet been agreed on within the School Department, but he felt the position could be dealt with as a contracted service.

SEE BUDGET - Page 2...

BUDGET - from Page 1...

The budget includes funding for the 3.5 percent salary increase negotiated for teachers and School Department staff; \$54,000 in funds earmarked for third and fourth grade literature-based reading books for the four elementary schools; \$33,000 for English textbooks for grades seven, nine, and 10; and \$7,200 for eighth grade social studies books.

Ryder said his budget supports the requests of administrators with the exception of additional personnel and technology equipment.

In his budget message to the School Committee, Ryder says that although the school system needs updated computers, funding through the regular school budget makes it impossible for the school system to provide the necessary texts, supplies, and other materials used in the district's programs.

"I strongly suggest the community consider alternative avenues to complete the purchase and

installation of an Agawam School System designed technology/computer program," Ryder said. "This equipment, having an initial cost in the vicinity of \$300,000, could be provided to the district through an increase of the town's industrial tax base via the building of the new business centers in the industrial park."

Ryder said the budget does not include \$146,000 for 20 ninth grade students to attend a vocational school other than the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Collaborative's Voc-Tech Center, but students already attending out-of-district vocational schools would be allowed to continue.

Ryder said he is recommending the School Committee vote to participate in the School Choice Program that would allow students from outside the school district to attend school in Agawam.

Ryder said he recommends allowing the same number of students to opt in to Agawam schools as currently opt out to attend school in other districts.

"Based on past numbers, this could generate

around \$75,000 for our schools," Ryder said.

The issue of opting in to the state's school choice program will come up for a vote at the next School Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 12th.

Also on the meeting's agenda will be resolutions concerning honors English classes for ninth and 10th graders, and a resolution dealing with the School Committee's policy on vocational technology education.

Ryder said no existing programs have been cut from the budget request.

The School Committee had been scheduled to meet on Tuesday, March 5th, in a workshop session to begin budget deliberations, but the meeting was cancelled due to the Presidential Primary election.

At presstime, plans to reschedule the meeting had not been finalized. The workshop session was to have been held at the Middle School and broadcast over cable access channel 5.

The next regularly scheduled budget workshop will be held on Wednesday, March 13th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Middle School auditorium.

POWER PLANT - from Page 1...

"We are very pleased that the Secretary has certified our Environmental Impact Report," said Berkshire Power Project Director Ken Roberts. "This approval confirms the accuracy and the thoroughness of the information that we have provided to the state's environmental experts, as well as Berkshire Power's commitment to an environmentally sound project."

A Major Step Forward For The Project...

Roberts said the environmental approval is a major step forward for the project. "The Executive Office of Environmental Affairs did a very thorough job in examining this project. There can be no doubt that this facility will meet all of the state's strict environmental standards."

But power plant opponents insist the project is

wrong for the site chosen.

"If there's a place in Agawam that allows structures over 40 feet, that's where we should look for a site for a power plant," according to Kenneth Forni, spokesman for Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam.

"No matter what the environmental study says, the 40-foot height requirement is something they can't get around," Forni said.

In January, Berkshire Power lost its bid for a permit to build a structure in excess of 40 feet when the Zoning Board of Appeals voted 2-1 in favor in granting zoning relief. The ZBA's position that approval must be unanimous for a permit to be granted is one of the issues being challenged by Berkshire Power in motions filed in Hampden County Superior Court.

Attorneys for Berkshire Power have asked for a summary judgment (a ruling by a judge without a

trial) ordering the ZBA to issue a building permit (because the approval requested from the ZBA is not for a special permit governed by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 40A and therefore, requires only a simple majority vote).

According to BP spokesman Kevin O'Reilly, the certification of the FEIR clears the way for other state agencies to begin issuing their permits and approvals.

O'Reilly said the project is awaiting approval from the state Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) which conducted hearings into environmental issues, the need for power, and its costs. A decision from the EFSB is expected by the summer.

O'Reilly said Berkshire Power remains "absolutely convinced" that their power plant will be built in Agawam.

"We're hoping to have shovels in the ground by this time next year," O'Reilly said.

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Luis, Jeanette,
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Jeanette is employed
by Baystate Medical
Center. Luis A. Rivera
is owner and operator
of J & L Home
Improvements
in Springfield.



"Camping is great for my whole family. Jeanette and I find that our best times are the weekends we spend tenting on the Rhode Island shore. We enjoy the feeling of living outdoors every time we set up our weekend home in our 12' x 12' dome tent.

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Commentary...

The Superintendent Search...

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

"Caveat emptor: let the buyer beware."

The buyer in this case is the unsuspecting job applicant scanning the want ads in professional journals and local and regional newspapers.

For 80 to 90 thou, plus benies, you can be the next school superintendent in Agawam if:

- You are certified or can be certified as a school superintendent in Massachusetts.
- You have a minimum of a master's degree in education or related field (doctorate preferred).
- You have at least 10 years experience in education (at least three as a teacher and three as an administrator).

The information packet sent to job hopefuls contains about what you might expect in the way of detailing the duties of the CEO for a school system serving about 4,225 students.

But that's far from the whole story of what we really want in our next superintendent.

The School Committee is in the middle of setting the criteria to rate the candidates' applications. In addition to compiling data from surveys polling parents and school personnel on the qualities they would like to see in the next superintendent, the School Committee is in the

midst of holding hearings to solicit input from the public.

Everyone concerned about the state of education in Agawam wants to have a say in the choice. Rightfully so.

Everyone wants to be sure there is representation from all quarters on the search committee who will whittle down the applications to a manageable number. Along with parents, several town councilors have come forward to offer their services.

Unfortunately, the one person truly qualified to sift through the piles of applications sure to be admitted is no longer with us.

Ed Sullivan, where are you when we need you? Our next superintendent will need some qualifications right out of Sullivan's Sunday night television show.

Like the plate-spinners who could keep dozens of pieces of dinnerware spinning aloft with nary a hint of cracked crockery.

Or how about Senor Wences and his hand puppet? You all (admit it!) remember his signature line: "S'allright." That talent might come in handy in the face of special interest groups competing

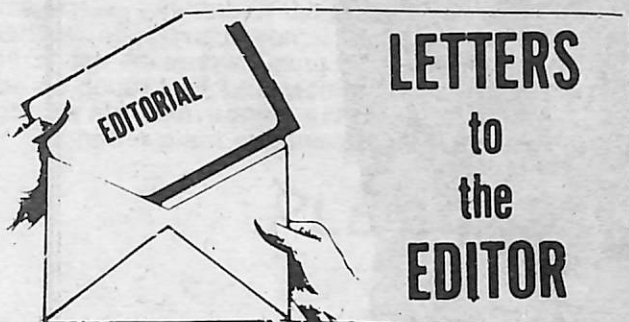
for sparse funds. Maybe we want someone who can say "S'allright" to everyone.

Or how about those magicians who entertained us every Sunday night. They could pull rabbits out of a hat—maybe they can pull some bucks out of a hat, too. And some instant school additions to ease crowded classrooms while they're at it.

Of course we can't have Ed Sullivan on our search committee. But we can have people who will put in the work it will take to find a candidate who is committed to excellence and high standards for both teachers and students, and who is committed to fostering team building to bring all aspects of the community, both inside and outside the school department, to work for the best interests of the students.

And all that other high-minded stuff—you can just fill in the educational buzz words of your choice.

And let's not forget common sense. It would be nice if the next superintendent had the good common sense to recognize and support a winning rookie team—like the new administrative team at the Agawam High School.



Many Obstacles To Overcome In Tackling School Problems

To The Editor:

I have been reading about and listening to the many frustrations of parents with children in the Agawam schools. I have also been reading about and listening to the same frustrations shared by the educators who work in those schools. As one of the several people in this community who are fortunate enough to be on "both sides," I have been making several observations.

Yes, there are problems in our schools. There always has been and there always will be. This, of course, does not mean that we have to accept these problems. In fact, we should not accept them. We should do everything in our power to correct them. And in some cases, those who can do something are trying extremely hard.

However, there are many obstacles to overcome. Let's look at the problem of smoking in the bathrooms at the high school. Those bathrooms are so overcome with smoke that non-smokers and asthmatics come out choking and smelling horrible. After this issue has been talked about and debated over and over again, the same solution keeps cropping up—there has to be a person who can monitor these bathrooms all day long in order for this problem to possibly go away.

Let's also look at the issue of school climate or atmosphere. How can students and teachers feel

good about being in a school where safety is a concern? What kind of learning can take place in a school with bare, concrete walls and overcrowded classes and outdated technological equipment?

Finally, let's look at the issue of low test scores. We are so quick to blame the teachers when our children don't perform in school the way we expect them to. But if we look closely at this issue, we must ask ourselves how we expect our children to learn to write in a class of 29 students and one adult. We must ask ourselves how they can master mathematical skills in a class of 26 and one adult. How can we expect ALL of our children to reap the benefits of heterogeneous grouping when class size remains well over 25 students with one adult?

We also need to ask ourselves when our children will start accepting responsibility for their own education. Somewhere along the line, they learn how to make excuses for themselves, and they are not held accountable for the lack of time and effort they put into their schoolwork. They move along from grade to grade without having the necessary skills to succeed. But somehow, somewhere, someone must insist that our children accept this responsibility of learning.

With the exception of teaching responsibility to our students in the Agawam schools, we are looking at a big price tag in order to put education where it should be for our students. We don't need better teachers, we need more teachers. We need to reinstate the internal suspension program at the junior high level; and we need to have one person, the same person, in the internal suspension room at the high school level in order for the program to be effective.

We need more teachers in our academic classrooms to lower class size so that the teachers can effectively teach the skills the students need to learn. We also need to lower class size if we expect heterogeneous grouping to be successful. We need to provide professional development opportunities for our teachers and administrators. And we need to update our computer technology and provide a program that is

meaningful to our students.

But all of this costs money—lots of it. It is time for this School Committee, this Town Council, and this Mayor to make this big commitment to educating the young people of this town. If you look at the leaders in this community, including Mayor Johnson, you will see that many of them call Agawam their hometown; the place where they were born and raised. The children in our schools are this town's future, and they deserve the most that the community can give.

SEE LETTERS -
Page 5...

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Saturday, March 9th
Operation Friendship Roast Beef Dinner
At F.H. Congregational Church,
21 North Westfield Street, F. Hills
Servings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Call 786-0195 or 789-3128 for tickets

Saturday, March 9th
Chicken supper at Valley Comm.
Church, 152 S. Westfield St., F.H.
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Call 786-2445 or 786-2576 for tickets

Sunday, March 10th
"All You Can Eat" Corned
Beef & Cabbage Dinner
At American Legion, Spfld. St., Agawam
5:00 to 9:00 p.m.
Adults, \$6; kids under 10, \$3

Monday, March 11th
Catholic Women's Club's
dinner and entertainment meeting
At St. John's Parish Center
6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 12th
Agawam Garden Club
At Capt. Leonard House, Main St.
7:30 p.m.

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LETTERS - from Page 4...

And, yes, I know that many people will say that the school budget is increased every year and that most of that increase goes to teachers' salaries. Is there something wrong with that? Is there some reason why people who work for private enterprise should see a salary increase every year, but the people who teach the children in this community should not?

Maybe what needs to be looked at is what I like to call creative budgeting. Maybe wasteful spending in the Special Education budget needs to be seen and eliminated. Maybe we need to look at what we have, and drastically and creatively change where it is spent; and I do not mean shifting from the supply department to the personnel department. Somewhere along the line, we have to start providing a quality education for the MAJORITY of Agawam's students instead of catering to a select few.

It really is wonderful to see School Committee people and town councilors come through the schools and visit for an hour or two, or even for a day. The unfortunate part of that is that no one can really see the true picture in such a short amount of time.

It is the people who are in these schools day in and day out, all day long, who really know what's going on. It is these people I strongly urge our elected officials to listen to when it comes to what is needed in our schools. They are the ones who know.

Sincerely yours,
Kathleen A. Mounelmeah
Feeding Hills

CCBA President Objects To AAN Article Regarding BP

To The Editor:

I strongly object to the article in *The Agawam Advertiser News* by Kathy Cassanelli regarding Berkshire Power and their lawsuit against the residents of Agawam.

Not only do I object to the content of the article, but, as President of the Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam, I feel that when Berkshire Power makes such ridiculous statements and accusations, our group should be allowed the opportunity to respond.

I know one fact that's for certain. When our group, the CCBA, makes a statement to *The AAN*, this paper has always sought to seek out Berkshire Power and/or the Mayor for a response to put in the article. All we ask is that *The AAN* extend the same courtesy to the residents in town (CCBA), that they do to the outsiders (Berkshire Power) when statements are made. Why are we not sought out to respond to their statements?

Now, to the article of February 29, 1996, page 2, according to Berkshire Power's attorneys, Alan K. Posner and Mark W. Corner, Berkshire Power "... maintains that the approval they sought from the ZBA was not for a special permit and required only a simple majority rather than a unanimous vote for approval."

This statement is a fabrication! I challenge Berkshire Power to prove this statement.

The AAN should have asked Ron Hebert, Ray Gendron, and/or Doreen Prouty (the voting members of the ZBA), if the request Berkshire Power sought in writing was, or was not, for a special permit. Berkshire Power said in this article, they did not.

We know for a fact that they did, in writing, request a special permit. We would hate to accuse these two attorneys of misrepresentation, but if Berkshire Power did not request a special permit in writing, then show us your signed application to the zoning board.

The AAN should have indeed asked the members of the ZBA if this statement is in fact accurate. Berkshire Power applied for a special permit for the six structures that violate the 40-foot height restrictions for our Industrial Park.

That special permit was denied.
That is the truth!

The AAN can obviously verify the facts and write an article as to who's telling the truth, and who's not. We feel Berkshire Power's attorneys made false statements in this article and we expect a response.

Secondly, Berkshire Power was quoted as saying, "... It is undisputed that Berkshire has received such majority approval. Accordingly, Berkshire has already obtained the required approval from the board as a matter of law..."

Berkshire has already obtained the required approval?????

If they had the approval, they would have the permit. They don't have the permit, so they don't have the approval. The special permit that Berkshire Power requested in writing, was denied. Berkshire Power should know better than to make these statements.

The residents of this town deserve to know the truth.

HERE ARE THE FACTS AND THE TRUTH!!!!
1. THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A MAJORITY APPROVAL!!!

2. BERKSHIRE POWER APPLIED FOR A "SPECIAL PERMIT"!!

3. THE REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL PERMIT WAS DENIED!!!

We challenge Berkshire Power and its attorneys to dispute these facts with us. We also request *The AAN* to, in the future, research and print the truth. Remember, the residents in this town deserve both sides of the story. We know we're telling the truth, and always have!!

Sincerely,
Ken Forni
President, CCBA

* EDITOR'S NOTE: The article in question reports on the contents of motions filed in Hampden County Superior Court by Berkshire Power attorneys. The article gives an accurate account of the position Berkshire Power's attorneys have taken in their request for summary judgment. The *AAN* will give its readers an equally accurate account of the city's motion opposing Berkshire Power's position as soon as it becomes available.

Keenan Deserves Credit For Opposing Casino Gambling

To The Editor:

On a recent Dan Yorke radio show regarding the issue of casino gambling in Holyoke, Mr. Yorke had the opportunity to interview several area legislators, including our district's Representative Dan Keenan. Representative Keenan emphatically stated his opposition to casino gambling as the way to lift the state's financial fortunes.

Last year, Agawam's voters overwhelmingly rejected gambling as an economic cure-all. It is reassuring to see an elected official who listens to the people and stands by the decision of the town.

Thank you, Dan, for sticking by the voters of Agawam.

Sincerely,
Ernestine Book
92 Oak Hill Avenue
Agawam

SEE LETTERS - Page 6...

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Wednesday and Thursday Only

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This coupon is not redeemable on specially priced entrees, lunch menu items, or early bird specials. Only one coupon per couple, per visit. Coupon is not redeemable for cash or with any other coupon or special. Applicable taxes paid by bearer.

LETTERS - from Page 5...

Sen. Melconian Seeks Input Regarding State Budget Process

To The Constituents In My District:

I am writing to inform you that it is time for the Senate to begin focusing on the State budget for FY'97.

In my new position as Assistant Majority Leader, I am confident that we in the Hampden District can have an even stronger voice in assuring that our needs are met responsibly and appropriately in the State budget process.

Please contact me by Monday, April 8th, with your requests for consideration in the State budget. This will allow my staff ample time to review the line item, draft any appropriate language, and present the request to my colleagues on the Senate Ways and Means Committee for inclusion in the Senate Ways and Means budget when it is reported to the Full Senate.

Please send the proposals in writing to: Senator Linda J. Melconian, State House, Room 320, Boston, MA 02133, Attn: Sharon.

I look forward to working with you to develop good budget initiatives. If you need to speak to me in person about any of your ideas or proposals, please set up an appointment through Betty in my District office (786-6033). I have set aside one day for these appointments.

Sincerely,
State Senator Linda J. Melconian

Public Urged To Attend Next School Comm. Meeting

To The Editor:

Please come to the next School Committee meeting to voice your concerns and suggestions in the upcoming selection of our new School Superintendent. This is one of the most crucial decisions affecting our school system.

Your input is very important. If you do not feel comfortable speaking into a microphone, please list your criteria and send or bring it to the meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 12, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. at the Middle School.

Many Thanks,
The Joint School Councils of Agawam

Agawam Should Be Proud To Host Berkshire Power Plant

To The Editor:

The deregulation of electricity is coming! I head that the process is under way and should be enforced by 1998.

The big hurdle is who will pay for the poor business decisions that the utilities have made. The industry can currently make a poor investment, example Yankee Rowe, then pass the loss to the customer. Is that fair?

Berkshire Power will be the first plant that will bring low cost, clean power to the restructured electric industry. Agawam should be proud to be able to be the host community for an industry that will be eliminating the monopoly of the sale of electricity!

Electrified,
Cindy Sanford Taylor
Agawam

Here's A Little Story From "A Happy Home"

To The Editor:

ALONE I SAT ... at the end of the street, my door flapping in the late summer breeze. My yard was overgrown—full of debris. My insides were shifted from one side to the other, with trash knee-deep.

There I sat, alone and neglected. People walked through me saying I was ready for a bulldozer; my heart grew sad. People gathered in my driveway and the man said, "SOLD"—my world was about to change!!!

The dumpster came and paint swished from side to side. Finally, the new carpet was in and neighbors came one by one, praising me. My heart beamed with pride.

As the sun went down, the "FOR SALE" sign went up—I was alone again. A few days passed by, and then my door sprang open and in bounded two little boys with Mom and Dad in tow—my heart leaped with joy and anticipation.

I could hear Mom say, "How wonderful it would be to have a nice yard for the boys to play in instead of a parking lot of an apartment." I listened, waiting, then I heard, "SOLD."

Next thing I heard was a whirlwind coming through—new cabinets, new windows, furniture,

and then the final decorating touches—I was truly beaming. My heart was about to burst, for now I was "A HAPPY HOME"!

Enjoy, Ben, Lisa, and boys! Thank you to the neighbors of Portland Street for their gracious hospitality.

Kathy Rose, Realtor
COLDWELL BANKER KEENAN
& MOLTA ASSOCIATES

Berkshire Power's In Lieu Of Taxes Will Benefit Agawam

To The Editor:

I have read and heard a resident from this town state that they are going to propose a ballot question. The question would be a BINDING question to start with and this question reads as follows:

"Should businesses and industries be allowed to negotiate and make alternate payment to the town of Agawam in lieu of paying actual real estate taxes and/or personal property taxes?"

I have to state my thoughts! First of all, I feel the only reason this question is being proposed is because of the Berkshire Power project wishing to come to our town. Second, there are already businesses that have these types of agreements in this town.

Now to go into a little more detail. Berkshire's willingness to pay one-million plus a three-percent growth over the life of the plant is HIGHER than required by LAW! This is a FACT, not a rumor. There is a letter stating this from the Department of Revenue from the state of Massachusetts.

After the agreement is met at the local level, it is then brought to the legislature and made into LAW! I do not understand how these rumors get around the town. If there is a rumor going around, look into it and find the facts like I have done.

Please do not let the industry wishing to come to this town and pay us a LARGER than required amount of revenue be harassed any more. We have to go to our elected officials and be heard. We want this in lieu of taxes for the benefit of our town!

Concerned Agawam Taxpayer,
Thomas M. Candon
31 Kristen Lane
Agawam

Concerned Citizens & Businesses Of Agawam Ask Intervenor Status Against Berkshire Power

On Friday, February 23, 1996, a group of 16 Agawam residential and business property owners and taxpayers abutting the site of the proposed Berkshire Power Development, Inc. power plant initiated proceedings in Hampden County Superior Court to become intervenors in the case filed by Berkshire Power Development, Inc. against the Agawam Zoning Board of Appeals.

Although many more citizens and businesses expressed a desire to join in the action, the pleadings were limited to abutters who have a legally recognizable interest in the proceedings.

As the Motion to Intervene states, "They seek to intervene as Defendants at this stage in the proceedings in order to support and defend the decision of the BOARD (Agawam Board of Appeals), more particularly, the decision written by Raymond Gendron."

The Motion to Intervene goes on to state, "Intervention is necessary at this stage of the proceedings because there is a genuine question whether their rights will be adequately

represented by the BOARD's representation as ordered by the Mayor of the City of Agawam."

In addition to the various legal arguments which the proposed intervenors cite, they also discussed recent City Council hearings, votes and proposals, all calling into question the adequacy of the divided legal representation ordered by the Mayor and calling for independent legal representation.

CCBA President Kenneth Forni said the proposed intervenors cite the Mayor's many public comments supporting the plant and Berkshire Power Development, Inc., even after the special permit application was denied, as well as his subsequent refusal to hire independent counsel, to conclude, "It is questionable how hard the Mayor, as the Chief Executive Officer of the City, will work on behalf of the position which he so publicly wishes to lose."

"It is questionable whether the Mayor will allow those who work for and report to him to work zealously and with all the resources of the City to

defend a position they know he wants to see defeated," said Forni.

"These questions and the fact that the City Council so overwhelmingly voted to have the BOARD defended by independent counsel validates (the proposed intervenors') concerns about the adequacy of the BOARD's current representation. Since there is a question as to whether the BOARD is itself adequately represented, there is an issue whether the (proposed intervenors) are being adequately represented by depending on the representation of the BOARD," added Forni. "As our esteemed former President Lincoln stated, 'A house divided against itself cannot stand.'"

Contrary to what was reported in the press as of Friday, February 23rd, Berkshire Power Development, Inc. had not yet filed a Motion for Summary Judgment in the Hampden County Superior Court.

For further details, please contact Forni, spokesman for the Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam, at 789-2709, or Attorney Gina-Marie Letellier at 739-2112.

Workshop For Councilors & School Comm.

A workshop has been scheduled for all members of the Agawam City Council and School Committee to be held Monday, March 11th at 7:30 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library.

The workshop will be held in the library's community room.

The purpose of this workshop is to have an ongoing dialogue between the City Council and the School Committee in addressing educational issues within the School Department so as to provide informed leadership regarding this critical area.

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Town Solicitor Tells Council That Berkshire Power Can By-Pass Local Process

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

In a memo sent to Town Councilors last week, Town Solicitor Thomas S. Locke said it was the opinion of the town's Law Department that Berkshire Power could by-pass the local permitting process if they lose their appeal of the Zoning Board of Appeals' (ZBA) decision that denied permission for structures in excess of 40 feet to be built on the site of the proposed power project.

Citing Chapter 40A of the Massachusetts General Laws, Locke concludes, "In the event Berkshire Power is a public service corporation, as defined under Massachusetts case law, they may be exempted from Agawam zoning ordinances."

"Berkshire Power would have to petition the Department of Public Utilities for such exemptions. The Department of Public Utilities would have to determine that the proposed use of the land is reasonably necessary for the convenience or welfare of the public," Locke wrote to Councilors.

Notice would have to be given and a public hearing held in Agawam before any exemptions were granted.

In his opinion sent to the council in response to a request from Town Councilor Joseph Langone, Locke says that under Chapter 164 of the General Laws, Berkshire Power may petition the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB) for a certificate of environmental impact and public need.

If such a certificate were to be granted, "no local approval, consent, certificate of condition for construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility shall be required."

Further, "no local government shall impose or enforce any law, ordinance, by-law, rule, or regulation nor take any action nor fail to take action that would delay or prevent construction, operation, or maintenance of the facility."

There are certain conditions that would govern the EFSB in reviewing the case and considering a certificate of environmental impact and public need.

In his opinion, Locke states that if a Superior Court judge upheld the decision of the ZBA to deny approval for the power plant, Berkshire Power may avail itself of the permitting procedure outlined under Mass. General Laws.

Town Of Agawam Seeks Applicant For Vacancy On Board Of Commissioners

Please be advised the Town of Agawam is seeking a voter to fill a current vacancy on the Board of Commissioners to Administer the Thomas Pyne Fund and the Whiting Street Fund.

The funds were established to benefit the "worthy poor" in the Town of Agawam. The Board of Commissioners shall, so far as consistent with the terms of the wills, manage and control the same, consider applications for assistance and distribute the income in accordance with the terms of the respective wills.

The Board of Commissioners shall keep a record of its activities, and at the close of each calendar year shall make a report to the Mayor and to the Council, showing the total amount of the funds, and their investments, receipts and disbursements on account of the same, setting forth in detail the sources of the receipts and the purposes of the expenditures.

Should any registered voter be interested in the above position please contact the Mayor's Office in writing.

Melconian Says Senate Accepts \$280 Million For Seaport Bond

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced the passage of a \$280 million Seaport Bond Bill for the improvement and development of the Commonwealth's rail routes, piers, boat terminals, ports, waterfronts, harbors, and fishing industry.

"This legislation makes sound investments in the Commonwealth's infrastructure," Melconian said. "With prudent and targeted funding for coastal facilities, freight transportation, and marine industries, the Legislature is making wise choices for the future without risking the fiscal stability we have worked hard to establish."

The bond issue authorizes \$85 million in state general obligation debt to fund the majority of the double-stack project that will capacitate rail routes across the Commonwealth to carry increased freight. This system, developed by lowering grades and raising clearances, is expected to stimulate growth in the Commonwealth's import/export industries and ports, as well as generate wide-ranging economic benefits.

"I am optimistic that Massachusetts will enjoy increased job opportunities and commercial activity as a result of this infrastructure development," Melconian said.

The Seaport Bond Issue also recommends investments in an array of programs, totaling just over \$13.8 million, to help fishing and associated marine industries rebound from a decade of declining groundfish stock.

As Senate Chairwoman of Science and Technology, Melconian developed an understanding of how new technologies can help devastated fishing industries. She is supportive of authorizations for equipment that will enable video display auctions of fish.

"This is essential to revitalize the fishing industry because the technology helps Massachusetts compete in the international market. Conducting video reviews of the daily catch expands the market quickly and effectively," Melconian said.

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon...

Boston Flower Show And Quincy Market One Day Excursion

Wednesday, March 13th
\$26.00 P.P.

- Depart Our Garage At 8:30 AM
- Depart Flower Show At 2:00 PM
- To Quincy Market Til 5:00 PM
- Depart Boston For West Springfield At 5:00 PM; Approx. Arrival At 7:00 PM



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Agawam Obituaries

James J. Hovagimian

James J. Hovagimian, 59, of 20 Randall Street, Agawam, a machinist at the Hamilton Standard Division of United Technologies Corp., died in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Worcester, he was a Navy veteran of the Korean Conflict and Vietnam War.

He belonged to the Masonic Mount Orthodox Lodge.

He leaves his mother, Helen (Zykoski) Hovagimian; a sister, Sandra Kinsley of Feeding Hills; and two nephews, Bryan and Steven Kinsley of Florida.

A memorial service was held in Colonial Funeral Home, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills.

There were no calling hours, and memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, Donations Department, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Helen D. McCarthy

Helen D. (Coughlin) McCarthy, 71, of West Springfield, an office clerk for T.J. Maxx Co., died in Springfield's Baystate Medical Center. She worked previously at H.B. Hood Co. in Agawam.

Born in West Springfield, she was a lifelong resident.

She was a communicant of St. Thomas Church, and a town elections worker.

Her husband, John F. McCarthy, died in 1987.

She leaves a son, Thomas G. of Westerlo, N.Y.; two daughters, Susan F. Griffin of North Quincy, and Maryellen McCarthy of West Springfield; three sisters, Margaret Dow and Barbara Moreau of Agawam, and Joan Coughlin of West Springfield; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home and the church, with burial in the parish cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Brightside, 2112 Riverdale Road, West Springfield, MA 01089, or the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Western Massachusetts, 1 Armory Square, Springfield, MA 01105.

Rose Latow

Rose (Teitelbaum) Latow, 84, of 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow, a saleswoman at the former Frankel's Dress Shop, died at home.

She retired in 1984. She had worked at the former Blake's Department Store.

Born in Turners Falls, she lived in Springfield most of her life, and in Agawam before moving to Longmeadow in 1984.

She attended the Temple Beth El, and belonged to the Jewish Nursing Home of Western Massachusetts and the American Association for Retired Persons.

Her husband, Sol Latow, died in 1971.

She leaves two daughters, Muriel R. Latow of London, England, and Iris Faraggi of Athens, Greece.

A graveside service was conducted at the City of Homes Cemetery in Springfield. Harold R. Ascher & Sons Memorial Chapel was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jewish Nursing Home, 770 Converse Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

Olga A. Misialek

Olga A. (Grinuk) Misialek, 82, of Agawam, a 10-year machinist at the former F. W. Sickles Co. of Chicopee, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Providence, Rhode Island, she was a

CCBA To Hold Educational Meeting On Wed., March 20th

The Concerned Citizens & Businesses of Agawam (CCBA) will be holding an educational meeting on the issue of Berkshire Power at the Crestview Country Club on Wednesday, March 20th, at 7:00 p.m.

The guest speakers will include Trout Unlimited, Clean Water Action and Connecticut River Watershed Council.

All Agawam residents and business owners are invited to attend.

You turn our pages each and every week for all the local news

graduate of Chicopee High School, and a 39-year resident of Agawam.

She was a communicant of the Basilica of St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, in Chicopee, and a Golden Ager.

She was active in humanitarian work, and sent clothing and donations to Russia for 15 years.

Her husband, John M. Misialek, died in 1993.

She leaves a son, John M. Jr. of Westford; a brother, John, and two sisters, Helen English and Mary Kowalk, all of Chicopee; and a grandson, Dr. Michael J. Misialek of Worcester.

The funeral was held at Cierpial Memorial Home and the basilica, with burial in the parish cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 813 Williams Street, P.O. Box 61210, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

Rose Ouimet

Rose "Nana" (Trudeau) Ouimet, 96, of 711 Suffolk Street, Agawam, a sales clerk at the former Youth Center clothing store, died at a local nursing home.

Born in West Springfield, she was a longtime Springfield resident before moving to Agawam six years ago.

Her husband, Ambrose E. Ouimet, died in 1969.

She also was predeceased by her son, William C. Ouimet, and her daughter, Madeline Vivenzio, in 1971.

She leaves two grandchildren, John C. Vivenzio Jr. of Springfield, and Rosemarie T. (Vivenzio) Stanisewski of Agawam; five great-grandchildren, Albert Stanisewski Jr. of Agawam, John C. Vivenzio 3rd and Michael Vivenzio of Springfield, Christine M. (Stanisewski) Weissman of West Springfield, and Kimberly A. (Stanisewski) Boulanger of Alaska; and two great-great-grandchildren, Tyler Michael Vivenzio of Springfield, and Elizabeth Rose Boulanger of Alaska.

The funeral was held at Colonial Funeral Home in Agawam, and St. Thomas the Apostle Church, with burial in St. Thomas Cemetery, both in West Springfield.

Helen I. Virgil

Helen I. (Williams) Virgil, 80, of Losito Lane, Agawam, died in a local nursing home.

She was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada. She lived in San Diego, California most of her life, and in West Springfield for 12 years before moving to Agawam recently.

She was predeceased by her husband, Henry Virgil.

She leaves a daughter, Suzanne Virgil of San Francisco, California; and two sisters, Mary LaMorder of Agawam, and Jean Gosse of St. John's.

A memorial service was conducted at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Longmeadow, with burial at the convenience of the family.

There were no calling hours, and West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Alice Pisano

Alice (Serra) Pisano, 81, of 95 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, died in Springfield's Mercy Hospital.

Born in Springfield, she was a lifelong resident of Feeding Hills.

She was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church, and a member of the Golden Age Club.

Her husband, Ralph "Doc" Pisano, died in 1979.

She leaves a son, Joseph R. of Feeding Hills; a daughter, Virginia Gannon of Chicopee; two brothers, Daniel of Longmeadow, and Fred of Westfield; six grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Hildegard Hilbig

Hildegard (Seidel) Hilbig, 90, formerly of 179 School Street, Agawam, died February 1st in a local nursing home.

Born in Koenigswalde, Germany, she came to this country in 1929. She lived in Springfield before moving to Agawam in 1939.

She worshipped at the Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield.

Her husband, William E. Hilbig, died in 1968.

She leaves nieces and nephews, and their families in Westfield, Brimfield, Cape Cod, and Germany.

A memorial service was conducted in the church. Burial will be next spring in Center Cemetery, and there were no calling hours.

Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements, and memorial contributions may be made to the church at 400 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109.

Anthony P. Masloski, Jr.

Anthony P. Masloski, Jr., 63, of Feeding Hills, a longtime draftsman for Combustion Engineering Co. of Windsor, Connecticut, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He retired in 1994.

Born in Springfield, he lived in West Suffield, Connecticut, for 20 years before moving to Feeding Hills 11 years ago.

He was a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War.

He leaves two daughters, Lori Masloski of West Hartford, and Amy Kane of Agawam; his mother, Anna (Klammer) Masloski, and a sister, Anita Barrett, both of West Springfield; a son, Kevin; and two nieces.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with burial at St. Thomas Cemetery in West Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

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Fire Wise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

What To Do If Your Clothing Catches Fire

All clothing can burn, and some clothing burns more easily than others. The Agawam Fire Department recommends that if your clothing catches fire, STOP, DROP, AND ROLL to put out the flames.

Don't run or keep standing. Running will only fan the flames and make them higher. Standing up straight will make the fire burn faster.

STOP AND DROP down to the floor or ground. ROLL or rock back and forth to smother the flames. Smothering the fire cuts off its supply of oxygen so it cannot burn. If possible, roll or rock in a rug, blanket, or coat to smother the fire faster. Attempt to cover your face with your hands to keep the fire away from your face.

When the fire is out, cool the burn with water and call the fire department or rescue squad at 911. Do not remove the burned clothing if it is stuck to the skin. Keep the victim quiet and warm until help arrives.

The fatal mistake people make in a clothing fire is to panic and run. Seconds count. The smothering action must be automatic. A trained, immediate response of STOP, DROP, AND ROLL is extremely important.

The running response occurs in all age groups,

but it is prevalent in younger children. Scared children run to find parents or mistakenly think that only water can put out a fire and they run to find it.

Everyone, especially children, must be taught to STOP, DROP, AND ROLL. Parents are teachers should encourage children to practice by making a weekly game of it. Make sure that they understand when and where to use this technique.

Most clothing fires are careless accidents and can be prevented. Follow these simple rules:

- Purchase clothing made with a smooth, tight weave. Fuzzy, lightweight, loosely woven or loose-fitting fabric will ignite and burn much easier.

- Use caution when using or working with any heat sources or flames.

- By law, children's sleepwear must be flame-retardant at time of purchase (available in sizes up to 6X). However, the washing and care instructions must be followed to maintain the fire-retardant feature.

- Keep children away from heat sources such as candles, stoves, cigarettes, outdoor grills, matches, portable heaters, etc.

For further information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.

Jane Brooks Is Now A Director Of Water Pollution Control Org.

Phillip H. Pike, Director of the Springfield Department of Public Works, announced recently that Jane Brooks, Laboratory Manager at the Springfield Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the Massachusetts Water Pollution Control Association.

Mrs. Brooks was nominated to the Board by its current President, Celeste Valliere, and was appointed at its December Quarterly Meeting. Jane is a graduate of Agawam High School and resides in Feeding Hills with her husband and two children.

The MWPCA is the State Operators Association, whose objectives are to promote the exchange of information and experience amongst its members, to promote the advancement of knowledge concerning the performance and management of wastewater treatment facilities.

Other objectives of her work on the Board will include promotion of sound wastewater legislation and to work with the State and Federal regulatory authorities to achieve and maintain water quality standards. Directors' terms are for three years and they will meet monthly at the Department of Environmental Protection's Training Center in Millbury, Mass.

According to Director Pike, "We are very pleased that Jane will represent Springfield on this prestigious Board. Her participation will assure that we have a direct voice to the regional leaders in the field of waste water treatment."

In addition, it was announced that Jane Brooks would also be serving as Chairperson of this year's "Operations Challenge" competition, which is an event sponsored annually by the MWPCA and gives member facilities from throughout the state the chance to compete in five events related to wastewater treatment.

The winner can then move on to regional and national competitions which are similar in content. The 1996 state "Operations Challenge" competition will be held in May at the DEP Training Center in Millbury, Mass., and will give teams of wastewater treatment workers the chance to use their skills in friendly competition.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996, at 6:50 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of McLEAN REALTY which is seeking a Special Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the construction of an addition, at the premises identified as 197 MAIN STREET.

Ronald Hebert, Chairman

Published: March 7, 1996

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1996, at 6:40 P.M. for all parties interested in the appeal of JOSEPHINE M. VETO who is seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the establishment of a business, a nail salon, at the premises identified as 21 RICHARDSON PLACE.

Ronald Hebert, Chairman

Published: March 7, 1996

LEGAL NOTICE



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Families



THE AGAWAM LIONS' CLUB is gearing up for its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner, which is scheduled for Wednesday, March 20th. From left to right: Robert Loomis, 3rd Vice President; Anthony Bonavita, Lions' Club President; James Loomis, who's in charge of food preparation; Raymond Olson, chairman of the upcoming dinner; and Joe Guy, 2nd Vice President. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Annual Record Hop Slated For March 23rd At Spfld. Turnverein

Cub Scout Pack 75's "Annual Record Hop" will take place this year on Saturday, March 23rd, from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 midnight at the Springfield Turnverein, Garden Street, Feeding Hills.

There will be a cash bar, and you are asked to bring your own snacks (chips, pretzels, etc.). A D.J. will provide the music for your dancing and/or listening pleasure, and there will be door prizes available.

Tickets are \$6 in advance, and \$7 at the door.

Come join our leaders and friends in supporting local Cub Scout Pack 75 at this fundraising event. Proceeds help support the youth throughout the year by deferring the cost of trips and various functions so that they may all enjoy the benefits of scouting and positive leadership.

For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Cheryl Fennyery at 789-1655, or Nancy Hallbauer at 786-2309.

For copies of his photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053. He has all the negatives and will be glad to help you. Thank you!

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 11th: Chicken chow mein, fluffy white rice, mixed vegetables, oatmeal bread, banana.

Tuesday, March 12th: Country pie (hamburger, rice, tomatoes, cheese), tossed salad, Canadian oat bread, chocolate pudding with whipped topping.

Wednesday, March 13th: Chicken breast cutlet with gravy, sweet potatoes, broccoli & cauliflower, whole wheat bread, applesauce with raisins.

Thursday, March 14th: Salisbury steak, egg noodles, corn, pumpernickel bread, canned peaches.

Friday, March 15th: St. Patrick's Day Party—Corned beef, boiled potatoes & carrots, cabbage, Irish soda bread, shamrock cake.

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

Corned Beef Dinner Planned By The Agawam Lions Club

The Agawam Lions' Club has begun its preparation for its annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner. This year's dinner will be held at the Agawam Middle School on Wednesday, March 20th, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Tickets are \$6.50 for adults, and \$3.50 for children. Children's tickets can be purchased at the door.

The Agawam Lions' Club is an all-volunteer charitable organization, which through the efforts of its 120-plus members and the solid community support, has been able to support many community projects throughout the year.

All proceeds will be earmarked for these projects.

Tickets may be purchased from any member of the Agawam Lions or at the door.

Help us to make this event a success so we can support these important Agawam projects such as Camp Rainbow and the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Program.

All the local news with us, every week!



Ask Dr.

by Stephen Jacapraro, D.M.D.

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TEETHING TRANSITION

Q. How should parents prepare for the time when a baby's first teeth come in?

A. Emergence of the first teeth is a happy milestone, but it often causes pain as the teeth slowly break through the gums. When a baby becomes irritable, it's likely that a tooth is about to come through. Be patient and concentrate on relieving the discomfort. This often is done by gently rubbing the gums with a small spoon or a finger, making sure either is clean. Have a teething ring ready for the baby; some can be chilled to ease the pain. If discomfort persists despite these measures, ask the dentist about medications that can bring relief by numbing the gums.

Once teeth emerge, it's up to the parents to keep them healthy and avoid decay. Regularly wipe the baby's teeth and gums with a damp gauze pad after each feeding. Consult the dentist if you have any concerns about the condition of the baby's teeth.

QUADRANT?

While the dentist always explains matters to a patient in easily understood words, patients often hear technical terms exchanged by members of the dental staff. Here are a few examples:

Quadrant: One quarter of the full complement of teeth. The term usually is applied to the left or the right half of the upper or lower sets of teeth.

Incisors: The four pairs of upper and lower front teeth which we use to bite food into chewable pieces.

Molars: The back teeth with large chewing surfaces.

Impaction: A tooth (usually a molar) that fails to emerge, becoming fully or partly embedded or pressed against an adjacent tooth.

Dentin: The interior substance making up most of a tooth.

Brought to you as a public service by Dr. Stephen R. Jacapraro, D.M.D., 1379 Main St., Agawam, MA 01001, (413) 786-8177.



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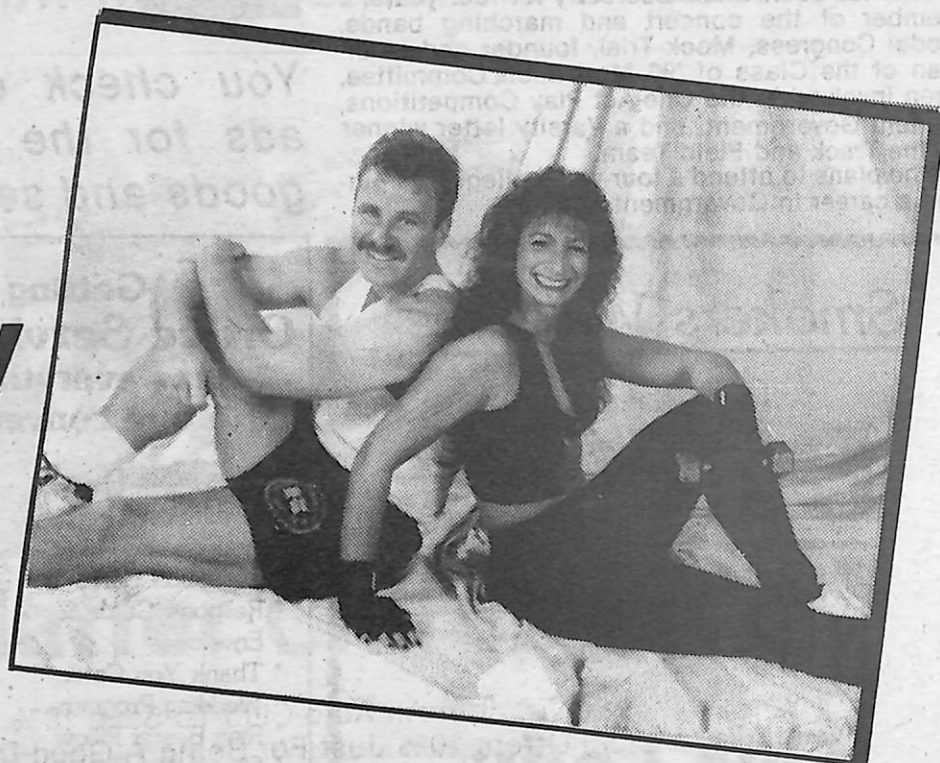
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MEGAN TIERNEY - 1996's "Westfield Colleen"

Westfield Colleen Has Ties To Agawam

Megan Eleanor Tierney, a 17 year-old senior at Westfield High School, was recently named Westfield Colleen for 1996. Tierney was chosen from a field of 20 young women.

She is the granddaughter of Manning and Eleanor Case of Monroe Street in Agawam. Her parents are Peggy and John Reardon of Westfield, and Jim Tierney of Holyoke.

Four members of her court were also selected. They are Kathryn Hanrahan, Stephanie Doe, Lauren Driscoll, and Kell Tymeson.

Tierney will preside over the Sons of Erin Float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade in Holyoke.

She has been Class Secretary for four years, a member of the concert and marching bands, Model Congress, Mock Trial, founder and chairman of the Class of '96 Motivation Committee, been involved in the One-Act Play Competitions, Student Government, and a Varsity letter winner on the Track and Field Team.

She plans to attend a four-year college and pursue a career in Government and Law.

Entertaining The Seniors At Heritage Hall!



RESIDENTS OF HERITAGE HALL were presented with a variety of entertaining music during the Valentine season. IN TOP PHOTO: The "Melody Band" from the Agawam Senior Center performed for the South Building. IN PHOTO BELOW: The Agawam A.B.C. Bell Ringers at the West Building. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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- Cookouts and BBQ's
- Bridal and Baby Showers
- Office Parties
- Funerals

Agawam Garden Club Slates Calendar Of Events For '96 Season

by Peggy Shoemaker
Advertiser News Feature Writer

Anticipating an early spring, the Agawam Garden Club is planning monthly events from March through November, such as a flower show and a plant sale.

The Board of Directors met recently at the home of Garden Club President Pauline Mortenson and lined up an active season.

The programs that usually follow the monthly business meetings were announced as follows:

March: "Maple Syrup in Massachusetts" by Brian Rowe of High Hopes Farm in Worthington.

April: A talk by Mark LaVoie of the Stanley Park staff on "Incorporating Summer Flower Bulbs in the Perennial Garden."

May: Dr. William Hutchinson of Amherst on "Those Captivating Orchids."

June: A field trip to "Waite Iris Gardens" of Westfield.

July: A field trip to a lily farm, "Pond Hill Gardens" of South Hadley.

August: The annual picnic at the home of Club Vice President Barbara Pemberton.

September: A competitive flower show at the Captain Charles Leonard House.

October: Featured will be Russ Fox of Southwick Florist.

November: The annual banquet with a program by Douglas Kimball of Laughing Brook Wildlife Sanctuary on "Attracting Backyard Wildlife." He will narrate to a slide show.

In addition, the Garden Club has a number of special projects ranging from scholarships for high school students to the plant sale at the Captain Leonard House set for May 18th.

By invitation, the club generally participates in the decorating of Storowton Village, West Springfield, for the annual holiday festivities (set this year for December 6th-8th).

Heading committees for the coming season will be: Nature, Denise Carmody; Literature, Elaine Smith; Hospitality, Nancy Smith and Terry Angotti; and Fellowship, Pauline J. Mortenson.

On the telephone committee are: Linda Lewis, Kim Cloutier, Lillian Latimer, Evelyn Mogue, Pauline J. Mortenson, Barbara Ouimet, Vivian Provoost, and Carol Swenor.

Anyone interested in any of the Garden Club programs is invited by the president to attend as a guest. Prospective members are also welcome.

The purpose of the club is for members to become more knowledgeable about gardening and to share their experience and information with one another.

The Garden Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month from March through November at 7:30 p.m. at the Captain Leonard House on Main Street.

Cindy M. Turcotte Enlists In U.S. Army

Cindy M. Turcotte has joined the United States Army under the Delayed Enlistment Program at the U.S. Army Recruiting Station, Springfield, MA.

The Delayed Enlistment Program gives young men or women the opportunity to delay enlistment into the Army for up to one year before reporting to basic military training.

The enlistment gives the new soldier the option to learn a new skill, travel, and become eligible to receive as much as \$30,000 toward a college education. After completion of basic training, soldiers receive advanced individual training in their career specialty.

Turcotte, a 1996 graduate of Agawam High School, will report to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to begin basic training on July 18, 1996.

She is the daughter of Clyde Turcotte, Jr. of 691 Mill Street, Feeding Hills, and Karin Rosel of 1100 Euclid Avenue, Longbeach, California.

American Legion Sets Corned Beef Supper

The American Legion will be holding its fourth annual "All You Can Eat Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner" at their Post Home on Springfield Street, Agawam on Sunday, March 10th from 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Donations are \$6 for adults and \$3 for kids under 10 years-old.

All proceeds will go to Legion Baseball.



MARINE PFC STEVEN P. SIGAFOSE, JR.

Steven P. Sigafose Completes Marine Corps Recruit Training

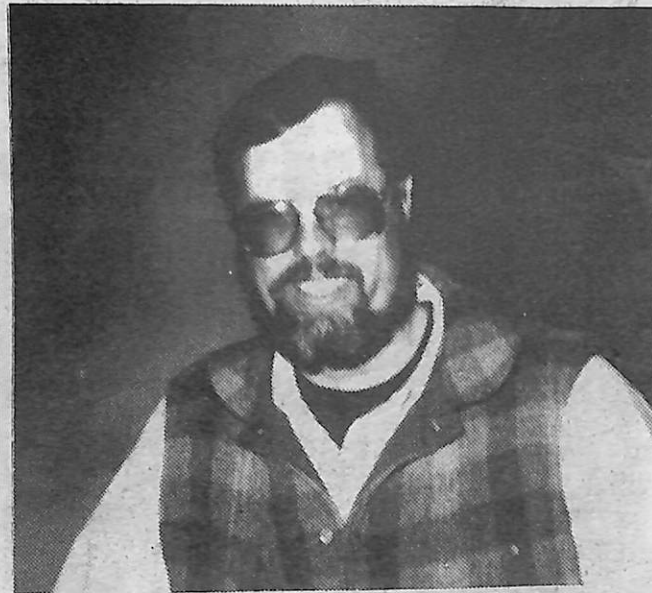
Private First Class Steven Paul Sigafose, Jr., son of Steven P. Sigafose, Sr. and Lauren Sigafose of 36 Clifton Drive, Agawam, recently completed recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.

A 1995 graduate of Agawam High School, he enlisted in the Marine Corps during October 1995.

Currently on leave, PFC Sigafose is assisting his recruiter, Sergeant Kenneth O. Jones, whose office is located in Springfield at 1550 Main Street, Room 112.

On March 11, 1996, PFC Sigafose will depart for Camp Pendleton, California, for further training in the Amphibian Assault Vehicle occupational specialty.

PFC Sigafose was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class for outstanding service at his duty station, Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina.



BRIAN ROWE OF HIGH HOPES FARMS

Program On "Maple Syrup" At Agawam Garden Club Meeting

Brian Rowe of High Hopes Farms, Worthington, will present a video and demonstration of "Maple Syrup in Massachusetts" at the March meeting of the Agawam Garden Club, to be held on March 12th at the Captain Leonard House on Main Street, Agawam.

The film is being provided by the Massachusetts Maple Products Association. Rowe will bring equipment from High Hopes Farms and discuss its use.

The farm offers tours and serves breakfasts from February 25th to April 14th between 7:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The program will follow the business meeting at 7:30 p.m., and a social hour will follow. Guests are welcome.

Storytime At Ag. Lib. Set For March 11th

Agawam and Feeding Hills families with children aged three and up are invited to the Agawam Public Library for an evening storytime on Monday, March 11th, from 6:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Come enjoy stories and a craft just in time for St. Patrick's Day, making you feel lucky whether you're Irish or not.

Please call 789-1550 or stop by at 750 Cooper Street to register.

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CHET NICORA (center) and Warren Miodowski of the Agawam Call Firefighters Association presented a check to Cheryl Polek of Pack 85 at a scouting meeting on March 1st.
Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Pack 85 Webelos Camp With Boy Scout Troop

The Webelos of Pack 85 spent the weekend of February 17th and 18th at Camp Moses in Woronoco with Agawam Boy Scout Troop 78. The boys got to spend Saturday night in a cabin heated by a wood stove while learning what it is like to be part of a Boy Scout Troop.

Activities included hiking and sledding while becoming acquainted with members of the troop. A class on knot tying was provided for the Webelos and the new members of the troop by senior level Boy Scouts.

In the evening next to the campfire, the Webelos witnessed an Indian crossover ceremony for incoming Boy Scouts.

Sunday morning was clean-up time, and the Webelos returned home following a breakfast of cereal and muffins.

On March 1st at the monthly Pack meeting, the Agawam Call Firefighters Association presented the Pack with a donation. Mayor Johnson and Senator Melconian spoke on how government works and then held a question and answer session.

Pack 85 thanks Mayor Johnson and Senator Melconian for taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us. We would also like to thank Jack Devine of *The Agawam Advertiser News* for taking pictures, and Lucia Lumber for their donation.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM BOARD OF APPEALS

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing at the Agawam Middle School Cafeteria, 68 Main St., Agawam, on **THURSDAY, March 21, 1996, at 6:30 P.M.** for all parties interested in the appeal of **WILLIAM F. FOLEY** who is seeking a Special Use Permit in accordance with Section 180-11 of the Zoning Ordinances, which would allow for the creation of an office, (Insurance Office) at the premises identified as 81 HAMILTON CIRCLE.

Ronald Hebert, Chairman

Published: March 7, 1996

PLM

PAUL LOUIS MANCINONE, CPA, ESQ.
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT-ATTORNEY AT LAW
66 NORTH MAIN STREET, SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06078
TELEPHONE/FACSIMILE: (860) 668-6559

Operation Friendship Has Roast Beef Dinner

A Roast Beef Dinner hosted by Operation Friendship of America will be held on Saturday, March 9th, at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, 21 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, with continuous servings from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

The cost for adults is \$7.50; \$4 for children under 12; and free for children under five years of age.

For reservations, call Kathy Rose at 786-0195 or Chris Mangano at 789-3128. If you reach an answering machine, please leave your name and number of reservations.

Walk-ins welcomed.

Chicken Supper At Valley Comm. Church

Valley Community Church will be holding its next monthly chicken supper on Saturday, March 9th, with continuous servings from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.

The menu will again consist of baked chicken, gravy, mashed potatoes, stuffing, two hot vegetables, tossed salad, cranberry sauce, olives, pickles, rolls with butter, and a beverage. You then have your choice from our ever-changing, homemade dessert table.

The cost is still only \$6.50 for adults and \$3.25 for children.

Reservations are strongly suggested by calling the church at 786-2445 or Shirley Taylor at 786-2576.

Weather cancellation can be heard on WMAS or WHYN AM/FM.

"Tree Workshop" At Ag. Public Library

The Master Gardeners Association of Western Massachusetts will hold a tree workshop on Wednesday, March 13th, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper Street.

Topics presented at the workshop will include planting, pruning, and pest control.

The workshop will be held in the library's community room and is open to the public. Anyone who would like further information should stop by or call the library at 789-1550.



MR. AND MRS. DAVID FAZIO

Maura Nevel Becomes Bride Of David Fazio

David Fazio and Maura Nevel were recently married at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills.

The groom is the son of Ottavio and Joanna (Bara) Fazio of Feeding Hills. He is a 1989 graduate of Agawam High School, holds a degree in Hospitality Management from Holyoke Community College, and is currently pursuing bachelor degrees in Elementary Education and Liberal Studies at Westfield State.

Robert Fazio served his brother as best man. Ushers included Agawam natives Bill Duncan, Michael Smith, Marc Scortino, and Anthony Mercadante. Gene Leary was also an usher, and his son, TJ, served as ring bearer.

The bride is the daughter of Rita Nevel of Medford, MA, and is a 1992 graduate of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is employed by Time/Design, a division of the Southworth Company, here in Agawam.

Kerrin McGillicuddy served her friend as maid of honor, and bridesmaids were Shannon Murphy, Kelly Sanborn, Andrea Clemeno, Lisa Charney, and Ida Muzzio. Alison Dovidio served as junior bridesmaid, and Megan Leary was the flower girl.

The couple honeymooned in Hawaii and is residing in Feeding Hills.

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Church News

Chicken Dinner At Agawam Methodist Church



THE AGAWAM METHODIST CHURCH held a chicken dinner on Saturday, February 17th. Among those in attendance were Jessica Jenkins and Ashley Gorman (left photo); Cindy and Julie Parisien (center photo); and kitchen helpers Kevin Telford and Kevin Olbrych (right photo). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Spring Craft Fair Slated At Mittineague United Methodist

On Friday, March 22nd from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 23rd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon, the Mittineague United Methodist Women will hold a Spring Craft Fair at the Church, 800 Amostown Road, West Springfield.

On Friday evening, there will be a Chowder and Baked Potato Bar. Plan to have a bite of supper and then browse through our tables, which will feature gifts, apparel, attic treasures, stuffed animals, decorations, plants, candy, and baked goods.

In addition, there will be an activity table for children while parents look for spring treasures. On Saturday morning, we will have a breakfast/brunch with pancakes, fixings, sausage, etc.

Plan to get a jump on your springtime and see what we have.

Family Style Ham & Bean Supper Planned At First Baptist Church On March 16th

The First Baptist Church, corner of Main & Elm Sts., Agawam, will sponsor a Family Style Ham & Bean Supper on Saturday, March 16th with servings times at 4:45 and 6:15.

The menu will consist of baked ham, homebaked beans, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, coffee, tea

or milk, and assorted homemade pies.

Cost for adults is \$7 and \$3 for children under 10. For reservations, please call 786-8609, 786-8209, or 525-2818.

If you find you are unable to honor your reservations, please call and cancel.

Check our classified ads every week...

Pheasant Hill Village

25 Pheasant Hill Drive
Feeding Hills

(413) 789-1131

Waiting lists are being opened for 1, 2, 3, and 4 BR units. Applications are being accepted at the office on Wednesday, March 13th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Details as to income levels, etc. when you call. We are Federally subsidized housing, financed by MHFA, Equal Housing Opportunity.

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Church News - continued...**News And Notes From F.H. Congregational**

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Sunday School for children and adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Children are then welcome to attend the worship service with the parents at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Donaldson will preach a sermon entitled "The Only Real Danger We Face." Nursery care will be provided.

The Youth Group will serve its monthly Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, March 9th, from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.

The delicious breakfast will include pancakes, eggs, and an assortment of extras for only \$2!

The T Bear Drive will continue to collect stuffed animals for adoption by local nursing home residents.

Please bring your toys to the church, where they will be cleaned and decorated by the Sunday School children before they are brought to their new homes.

The weekly Lenten Series "Faith Over Fear" continues this week at 7:15 p.m. on Sunday, March 10th. It is not too late to join us for discussion, meditation, song, and prayer as we make our way through the holy and meaningful season of Lent.

This will be the final time that this series will take place at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. The remaining three sessions of the program will take place at the Agawam Congregational Church at 7:15 p.m. on March 17th, 24th, and 31st.

Call 786-5061 for more information.

The Stewardship and Missions Board will be sponsoring the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 10th, and again on March 17th.

Our offering dollars will be used to combat famine, disease, and illiteracy in more than 70 countries, including the United States. Our money supports long-term development and assists some of the world's 17 million refugees, half of whom are children.

Envelopes may be found in the pews during morning worship on the collection days, or a check may be mailed to the church office: FHCC, P.O. Box 264, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

On the calendar this week:

Saturday, March 9th: 8:30 to 11:00 a.m., Pancake Breakfast; 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., OF Roast Beef Supper.

Sunday, March 10th: 9:00 a.m., Sunday School/Adult Bible Literacy; 10:00 a.m., Open Pantry Sunday; 11:30 a.m., Christian Ed meeting; OF meeting after church; 7:15 p.m., Lenten Program.

Monday, March 11th: 7:00 p.m., Trustees.

Tuesday, March 12th: Informer deadline; 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Stewardship/Missions.

Wednesday, March 13th: 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, March 14th: 7:30 p.m., Deacons.

Friday, March 15th: Confirmation Retreat at Craigville (return March 16th).

Lent Continues At First Baptist Church

Rev. Richard Barnes' message for this Sunday morning's 9:30 a.m. worship will be "Growing Up," as Lenten services continue at First Baptist Church. His scriptural text is taken from Luke 2: 41-52.

Following worship, plan to stay for coffee and conversation before attending one of the classes, which are available for all ages. As usual, nursery care is available.

At 6:30 p.m., the Christian Education Board will hold their monthly meeting.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, March 11th: 7:30 p.m., Social Action Committee.

Tuesday, March 12th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlights Circle meets at the home of Jeanne Webster; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Church Committee in the Parlor.

Wednesday, March 13th: 7:00 a.m., Lenten Breakfast, Prayer Time and Meditation (Hall Chapel); 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:00 p.m., Lenten Study Groups meet.

Thursday, March 14th: 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal; 8:30 p.m., Music Committee meeting.

Saturday, March 16th: Jr. High Youth Group trip to Boston; 4:45 & 6:15 p.m., Ham & Bean Supper.

During the month of March, you are invited to contribute to the America for Christ offering at any of the morning services.

The American Baptist Churches of Massachusetts will be sponsoring a special event, "Kindling the Fire," to be held on March 30th from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Marriott in Newton.

Deadline for reservations to attend this convention is March 20th. If you are interested, call the church office at 786-7300.

Country Line Dancing Classes Offered At Ag. Congregational

Kick up your heels and come on down to the Agawam Congregational Church, where "Millie & the Gang" will teach you all of your favorite country dances!

Beginning on March 15th, classes for everyone interested will be held on Friday nights in the Fellowship Hall at the church, 745 Main Street. Dance partners are welcome, but not required. Hard-soled shoes are recommended.

Join us from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. each Friday. The cost is \$20 pre-paid for the five-week session, or \$5 at the door. Refreshments will be available and children care will be provided (at an extra charge), so bring the whole family.

For further information, please call the church office at 786-7111.

Best local news - AAN!!!**Activities & Events At Sacred Heart Church**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: We are looking for students to be part of our SPECIAL LITURGY on Sunday, March 17th, at 9:00 a.m. Mass.

We need readers and gift bearers. If you are interested, contact Alma Benton at 786-9835 or Beth O'Neil at 786-0158.

RETREAT MISSION: Is there more to Catholic Church Life than pay, pray, and obey? You bet there is! Come and hear good news about being a Catholic and about making your faith alive at Sacred Heart's Parish Retreat, March 25th-28th.

Fr. John O'Brien, a Passionist, and Mrs. Doreen Bottone, a Parish Minister from Connecticut, will be presenting a message that will encourage your life in the parish, in your home, and in your work. Circle these dates, March 25th-28th, on your calendar now.

FINANCIAL AID APPLICATIONS: Financial Aid applications for needy families whose children will be attending Diocesan schools next fall are now available at the rectory and also at each high school.

PLEASE NOTE—financial aid is for **one year only**. Therefore, last year's recipients must reapply.

If you have any questions regarding aid, please contact the Financial Aid Office, 732-3175, ext. 277.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CONCERT BAND: Sponsored by the Parish Community of St. Cecilia's Church—Tuesday, March 12, 1996, at 7:30 p.m. at Minnechaug Regional High School, Wilbraham, MA.

This concert will benefit St. Cecilia's Building Fund. Donations: adults, \$10; students, \$5.

For tickets, call Tess Cambo, 596-6578, or the Sacred Heart Church rectory, 786-8200.

"Spring Festival" Slated At Agawam Congregational Church

Come and join in the celebration of springtime at the "Spring Festival" on March 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

There will be a Garden Gate Shop featuring plants and a variety of supplies for your spring gardening. Homebaked goodies will be available at the Nutmeg Bakery.

The Candy Cupboard will offer homemade candies. Handmade spring and Easter craft items await you in the Country Craft Shop. A selection of stylish new clothes from area boutiques will be for sale at the Clothesline Boutique.

A wonderful selection of handcrafted items awaits you at the This 'N That Booth. The Young Adults Booth will offer some special creations. Visit the Attic Treasures Booth for surprises and bargains.

The Daffodil Lunch Cafe will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. serving a chicken salad plate, ham and potato salad, or seafood roll with lemon delight or fresh fruit for dessert (including tea or coffee). The cost will be \$4.50.

There will be a raffle of a very special handcrafted prize.



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Phone 786-2407

Church News - continued...**Weekly Calendar From
Ag. Congregational**

This Sunday, March 10th, is the Third Sunday of Lent. At Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "Go to the Source," taken from the text: John 4:5-15. The Children's Message will be "Who Will Clean the Blackboard?"

The Annual Budget Meeting will be held on Sunday, March 10th, immediately following the Worship Service at 11:30 a.m.

The Marie & Nick Zucco Scholarship Dinner will be Sunday, March 10th, at 5:30 p.m. Please support the youth of the church by attending this ziti dinner sponsored by the Board of Deacons. Donations will be collected to add to our scholarship fund for the graduating seniors continuing their education endeavors.

The Heifer Project continues through to Sunday, March 24th.

The Joint Lenten Series with the Feeding Hills Congregational Church entitled "Faith Over Fear - A Lenten Journey" continues on Sunday nights at 7:15 p.m.

The next session on March 10th is the final session held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. On Sunday, March 17th, it will move to the Agawam Congregational Church for the following three weeks.

Rev. Rob Donaldson and Rev. Curt Fuller will lead the series of song, prayer, meditation, and discussion. Childcare will be provided.

The Jr. High Youth Group continues to meet each Friday night from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the new youth room, for planning and activities.

The Advisors for this group are Diane Jerserski and Andy Pedersen, with Dan Pender as the Youth Director. Bring a friend and join the group today!

Country Line Dancing to begin Friday, March 15th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Cost is \$20 pre-paid or \$5 each week at the door for the five-week session.

For further information, call the church office, 786-7111.

Get ready for spring! The Annual Spring Festival sponsored by the Ladies Aid Society will be held on Saturday, March 30th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come down and browse through the "Garden Gate" filled with flower decor, or the "Nutmeg Bakery" and treat yourself to the homemade baked goods. Try our "Daffodil Lunch Cafe" for rest and refreshment. Enjoy a chicken salad plate, ham and potato salad, or seafood roll with lemon delight or fresh fruit for dessert with coffee, tea, or milk for a beverage.

Other booths include: "The Country Craft Shop," "The Cutting Edge," "Clothesline Boutique," "Candy Cupboard," "This 'N That," "Attic Treasures," "Eleanor's Magic Needle," and a "Young Adult & Youth Booth."

Don't forget your raffle tickets for a very special handcrafted prize. So, come for an hour or stay for a while. See you there.

Any questions? Call the church office at 786-7111.

Sunday, March 24th, is Visitation Sunday. Also, this is Heifer Dedication Sunday.

Monies collected for the Heifer Project will be dedicated at the morning Worship Service.

**Agawam Methodist To
Hold Corned Beef
And Cabbage Supper**

The Agawam Methodist Church will hold a corned beef and cabbage supper on Saturday, March 16th, at 5:00 and 6:30 p.m.

Reservations are requested. Call Dana Henry at 789-0684.

The price for seniors is \$6; for all others, \$7. All proceeds from the supper will go towards the purchase of a new dishwasher for the church kitchen.

LEGAL NOTICE**LEGAL NOTICE****TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

The Agawam Conservation Commission will meet on Thursday, March 14, 1996 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Polce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Mass. The purpose of this meeting will be to hear the Request for Determination of Applicability of William Bekkerling and Gwen Van Dorp for property located at Lot 26 South West Street.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission

Published: March 7, 1996

**Catholic Women's Club Slates Dinner And
Entertainment Meeting For March 11th**

The members of the Catholic Women's Club of Agawam look forward with great anticipation to the March dinner and entertainment meeting, which will be held on Monday evening, March 11th, in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church.

Dinner, catered by Alcoa, will be served at 6:30 p.m. Beverly Boudreau is in charge of the dinner and has been assisted by the following members of the Board: Gloria Colby, Betsy Ciempa, Carol Pignatere, Charlene Moretti, Joan Malinoski, Lorraine Davis, Martha Jerry, and Pat Sherry.

When the last dish is cleared, the curtain will

open on the musical production "A Very Good Year," co-directed and produced by Jackie Hayes and Judy Shrader.

The talented cast includes Gretchen Schmidt (pianist), Judy Clow, Betsy Ciempa, Pat Doran, Lii Doyle, Dot Frenette, Marty Jerry, Maria La Rochelle, Sheryl Mardeusz, Charlene Moretti, Carol Pignatere, Paula Raiche, Kathie Schafer, and Pat Sherry.

Beverly Boudreau is in charge of the curtain, and Maryann Green will do the backdrop.

Mary Kay representatives Cookie Albro, Gloria Defillipo, and Gail Roberts will do the makeup.

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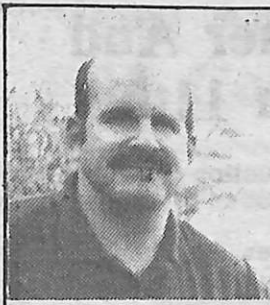
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Church News - continued...



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
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The Story Of Abraham...

Abraham is described in the Bible as the "Father of our faith." Jesus referred to him as such. The Apostle Paul, writing in Romans, points out that "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness." Abraham is the father of our faith because he was a special friend of God's. We can learn something about being God's friend by looking at the story of Abraham's life, which is in Genesis, beginning in chapter 12.

"The Lord had said to Abraham, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you.'"

Notice first who initiates the relationship between God and this man. It is God. From this we see that Abraham belonged to God because God called him. Abraham did not chase God from behind some tree or out from under a rock.

Upcoming Dates To Remember At Agawam United Methodist

On Sunday, March 10th, worship at the Agawam United Methodist Church will begin at 9:30 a.m. We invite you to join us.

This Sunday will be the third Sunday in Lent, when we continue to remember Jesus' sacrificial offering of himself.

Sunday School meets during the worship hour. Our doors are open to children of all ages from any area.

A youth meeting will be held at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 10th, and Sunday, March 26th.

Lenten Bible Study will be held every Monday at 7:15 p.m. Studies will relate to the Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of our Lord.

The study will be based on William Canon's "The Gospel of John." All persons who are interested are welcome.

A Social and Goal-Setting evening is being arranged for March 14th. Further information will be made available.

Sunday, March 17th, is One Great Hour of Sharing. The work area on Missions invites you to share the goodness of life with all those who hurt. Special offerings will go to relief, rehabilitation, and services.

On Sunday, March 24th, a Men's Communion Breakfast will begin at 7:00 a.m.

On April 4th, Holy Thursday, a Communion Service will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The doors of the Agawam United Methodist Church will be open on Good Friday, April 5th, from 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m. for meditation. At 7:00 p.m., an ecumenical service will be held at the Agawam Baptist Church. Our people are encouraged to be present.

On Sunday, April 7th, the Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the rising of the sun in the usual spot near the Agawam Library and High School. Easter morning breakfast will be held at the church immediately following the sunrise service.

The Lenten Season is a time for reflection, meditation, and resolution making. If you are looking for a home church, or decide on making a new beginning in your walk with God and your discipleship with Christ, then we at the Agawam United Methodist Church wait to welcome and encourage you.

You may join our youth fellowship or our newest revived group, "The Agawam United Methodist Women."

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12 noon; we thank you for your cooperation...

Abraham was not the one to call out first. It was God. The same principal applies to us today. If we know ourselves to be one of God's people, it is because He reached out to us. We belong to God because He called us.

Secondly, notice the promise of God to bless Abraham and make him into a great nation. God also promised Abraham that his offspring would receive certain land. The promise to bless is all God's idea. God did not have to bless Abraham. God blessed Abraham because he wanted to. In fact, Abraham belonged to God in the first place because God wanted him. God wants to bless us also. Those of us who are God's people belong to Him because He wants us. God wants all people to belong to Him.

Later in Genesis 12, we read that Abraham made some awful mistakes. Fearing hard times in the promised land, Abraham took his clan to Egypt, where his wife wound up in the king's harem. In spite of Abraham's failure of faith and the terrible mess he made of things, God was watching over him and restored him in due course.

In so doing, God demonstrated that Abraham still belonged to Him even though Abraham made some horrible mistakes. God is still in the restoration business. God wants His people to know we belong to Him, even though we, too, sometimes make some mistakes.

One of the underlying messages from the story of Abraham's life is that God wants us to be His friend. He wants each of us to belong to Him. It is not God's purposes or desire that any one of us should be a spiritual orphan. How can we become a friend of God?

How can we belong to Him? In the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us we must be "born again" to see and enter the Kingdom of God. There is nothing weird about being "born again." We become "born again" by believing in Jesus, with more than just our heads but also with our hearts.

Ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life; tell God that you would like to belong to Him. Accept by faith that "God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

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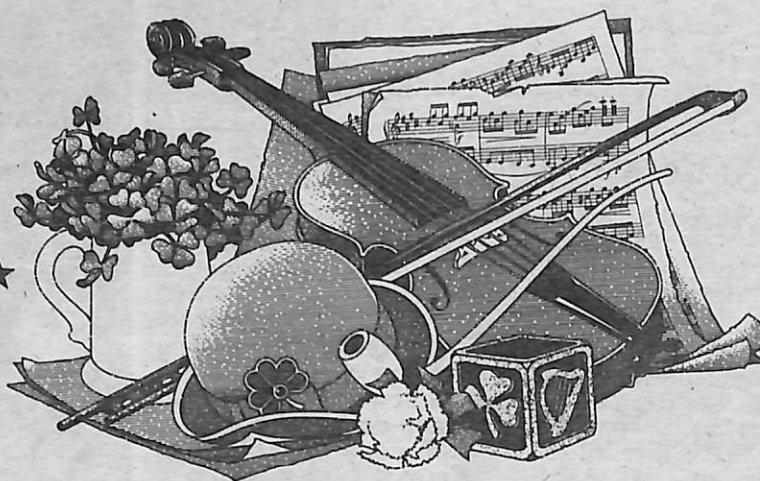
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Spotlight On Business

Century 21 Celebrates A Year Of Success

With yet another successful and busy year behind them, hundreds of CENTURY 21 real estate professionals from the Western Massachusetts area joined CENTURY 21 executives to honor the best in the CENTURY 21 system.

"This year's event was bigger and more spirited than ever," reported Cynthia Turnbull, Regional Director for Century 21 of the Northeast, Inc. The evening's celebration, held at Chez Josef in Agawam, Friday evening, March 1st, included an awards ceremony, dinner, and dancing.

"The Annual Gold Ball conducted by the Western Mass. Broker's Council is a tremendous opportunity for our local offices to showcase the talent and hard work that has made CENTURY 21 the best real estate sales organization in the world. We are proud to be part of the Century 21 team," said John Schuler of CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc. located in Agawam.

Cynthia Turnbull explained that some of the heightened anticipation at this year's extravaganza was due to the news of the CENTURY 21 system's new owner, Hospitality Franchise Systems, and new President Bob Pitman. Their advancements in the areas of automation, publishing, and one-stop shopping vendor programs will provide added value and convenience to customers nationwide.

"Many of our top producers who were honored are looking forward to another banner year in 1996," said Turnbull. "Backed by the promise of new tools, programs, technologies, and vendor relationships, their chances to improve on their past successes will be greatly enhanced."



SALES ASSOCIATES FROM CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc., in attendance at the Annual Gold Ball, which was held at Chez Josef on Friday evening, March 1st. Front row: Helen Schuler, Anna Ruszczyk, Denise Spanilo, and Kathleen Morace. Back row: Russell Sabadosa, John Krawiec, John Schuler (Broker/Owner), and Agnes Ruszczyk.



KATHLEEN MORACE was recently awarded the "Agent of the Month Certificate" for her achievements during January by John Schuler, Broker/Owner of CENTURY 21 Newschu Real Estate, Inc., in Agawam.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD

The Agawam Planning Board will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 21, 1996 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of Joseph Schlaffer for a Definitive Subdivision Plan of Barden Street, a proposed 6 lot subdivision to be located on 4.5 acres on Barden Street.

By Order of Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman
Agawam Planning Board
Published: March 7, 1996

Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. Consolidates Its Eldercare Businesses

Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. (NYSE, GHV), owner of Heritage Hall Nursing Home, recently announced that it is consolidating its eldercare businesses under the trademark name, Genesis ElderCare and unveiled a new logo and brand positioning program to emphasize the company's commitment to helping older Americans define and achieve a full life.

The new Genesis ElderCare logo and trademark will be featured in a series of bold and spirited print advertisements that capture the essence of aging people as individuals, living their lives as they choose. These advertisements will debut in coming weeks in select publications serving the regional markets in which Genesis ElderCare operates.

The company will retain Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. as its legal name and will continue to be listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the GHV symbol. The stock has been trading between \$40 and \$42 recently. Genesis ElderCare operates a comprehensive eldercare network that serves more than 60,000 people and offers an expanding array of eldercare services to provide the emotional and clinical support on which older people can rely.

"True eldercare means respecting the individual, helping each person define realistic goals and then providing the support for them to achieve those goals," said Michael R. Walker, chairman and chief executive officer of Genesis Health Ventures.

"Everything we do through the Genesis ElderCare Network is focused on enabling older people to live full lives—socially, physically, and emotionally. We work with older people and their families to identify the best health care options, from home care and assisted living to special communities or eldercare centers. Our brand of eldercare meets the particular and unique needs of each person."

The Genesis ElderCare Network has developed programs which encourage the movement of its

customers from eldercare centers to settings where they can enjoy greater independence. These programs also lead to reduced costs to the nation's healthcare system. As an example, Genesis ElderCare consistently outperforms the national average in having customers discharged from nursing centers to home settings: 40 percent for Genesis ElderCare, versus the national rate of 25 percent.

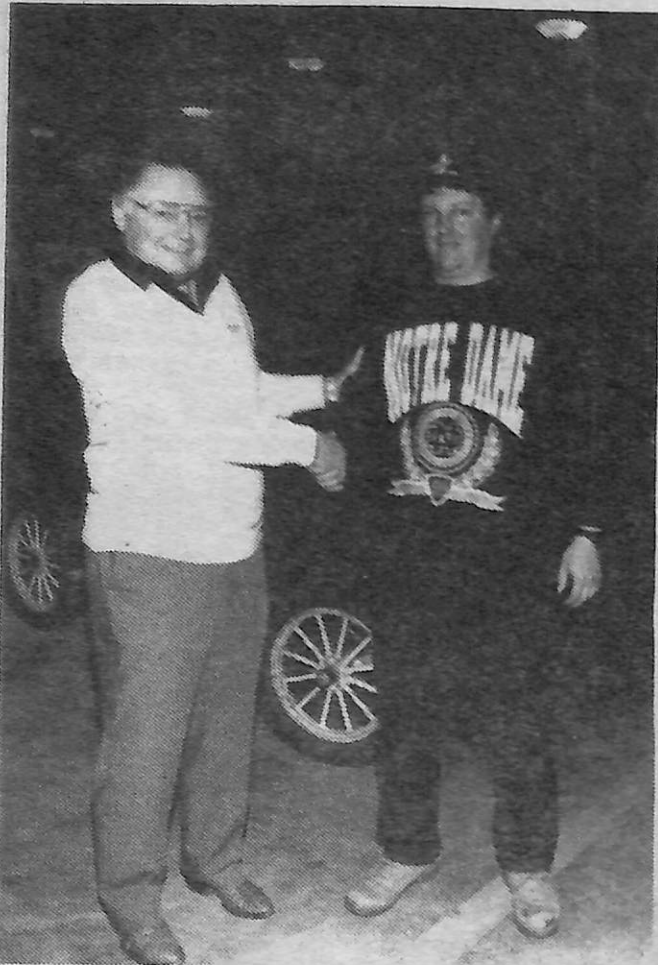
"We are finding that our emphasis on independence and our commitment to quality care at a reasonable cost makes us an attractive partner for managed care organizations," said Richard R. Howard, Genesis Health Ventures president and chief operating officer. "In the Genesis ElderCare philosophy, everyone is an individual, with their own unique definition of who they are and how they want to live their lives."

The company plans to announce a number of new initiatives in the coming months to educate elders and their adult children about options in eldercare and to demonstrate that Genesis ElderCare best understands the needs and desires of older Americans.

Since its founding in 1985, the company has developed a concentrated and versatile eldercare network through the combination of an employee work force of eldercare professionals, a mix of managed and owned facilities, and joint ventures with other providers. The Genesis ElderCare Network integrates a full range of services, including family support services, home care services, physician services, pharmaceuticals and medical supplies, retirement communities, assisted living communities, short-term rehabilitation and long-term care.

Genesis Health Ventures, Inc. has 25,000 employees in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia, and Florida and has annual revenues approaching \$500 million. The company headquarters are located in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania.

**When mailing classified ads to our office
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*Spotlight On Business - continued...***Honoring Riverside Park Employees...**

T.C. FREEMAN, JR. (left), Director of Maintenance & Loss Prevention at Riverside Park in Agawam, congratulates Riverside employee Dave Jenks (right) for earning a Creativity Award for January 1996. The award was given in recognition of Jenks' redesign of the roof at the Friendly's North End building. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



EDDIE AUSTIN (right) has been named Riverside Park's Maintenance Person of the Month for January 1996 for his untiring dedication to the Park and his on-the-job excellence. Shaking his hand in congratulations is T.C. Freeman, Jr. (left), Director of Maintenance & Loss Prevention at Riverside Park. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

All the hometown news with us, each week - AAN!!!

Troy E. Matthews Joins The Forastiere Family Funeral Homes

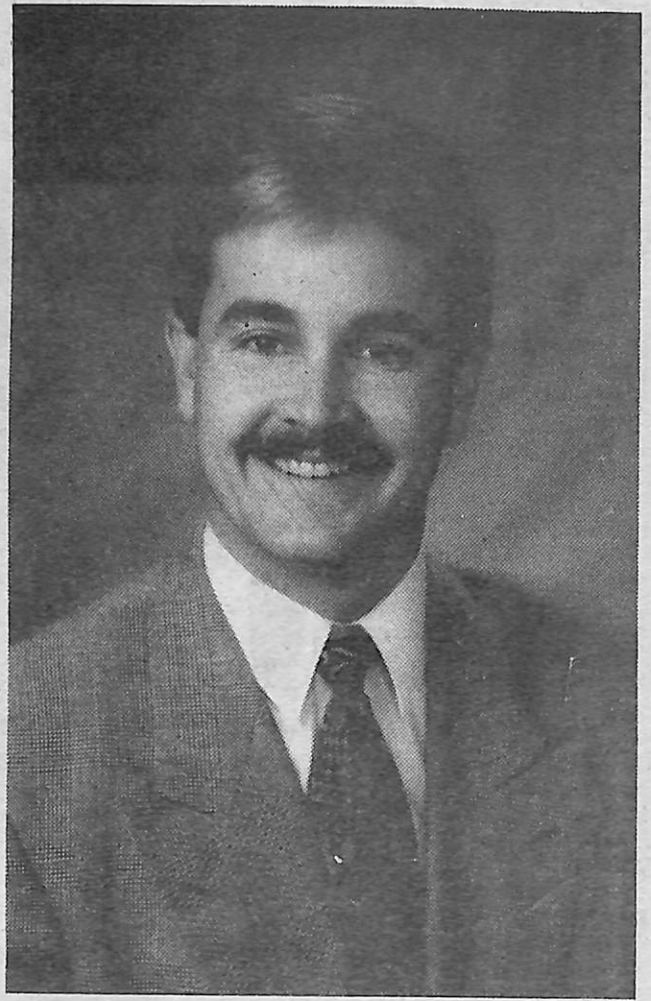
With 12 years of experience in funeral service, Troy E. Matthews has joined Forastiere Family Funeral Homes as a Funeral Director and Pre-planning Counselor. He was recently sworn in by the Massachusetts Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming. He is also a licensed Insurance Agent in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Matthews and his family now live in Wilbraham, where they attend Wilbraham United Church. He is also a member of the East Longmeadow Jaycees and is a Mason. His wife Kimberly is active in the Wilbraham Welcome Wagon and the Wilbraham Junior Women's Association.

Prior to relocating here in August, Matthews managed H.D. Oliver Funeral Apartments in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He attended college in Virginia, studying business administration and computer science and was a 1988 honor graduate of Gupton Jones College of Mortuary Science.

Matthews brings with him extensive training and experience in funeral pre-planning. He has conducted numerous seminars to help people work funeral planning into their retirement and estate plans.

He will now continue to help families in this area as a member of the Forastiere Family Funeral Homes, which operate Forastiere Funeral Home in Springfield, Forastiere-Smith Funeral Home in East Longmeadow, Colonial Funeral Home in Agawam, and Southwick Funeral Home in Southwick.



TROY E. MATTHEWS, a new Funeral Director and Pre-planning Counselor for the Forastiere Family Funeral Homes.

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Spotlight On Business - continued...

FUNERAL DIRECTORS Richard (left) and Joseph Curran (right) welcome T.J. O'Brien to the staff of Curran-Jones Funeral Homes.

T. J. O'Brien Joins Funeral Staff At Curran-Jones

Dedicated to serving your family, Curran-Jones Funeral Homes of West Springfield and Agawam, and the Edward F. Day Funeral Home of Holyoke, are proud to welcome T.J. O'Brien to the Curran-Jones family.

Formally the Manager and Pre-Need Director of Hafey Funeral Service in Springfield and East Longmeadow, O'Brien joined the Curran-Jones Funeral Home in February. He has been a licensed funeral director since 1980, and a licensed pre-need insurance agent since 1991.

Raised in West Springfield, he attended local schools and was graduated from the New England Institute of Anatomy and Science in 1979. He resides in West Springfield with his wife, Mary (Mattina) O'Brien, and their two children, Kate and Marty.

Keeping with the Curran family tradition, O'Brien looks forward to serving local families with dignity, compassion, and professionalism.

Agawam Chiropractor Takes First Place At Speaking Competition

Dr. Tami Nelson of Agawam took first place in the annual Young Careerist speaking competition sponsored by the Springfield Business and Professional Women's Club held on Tuesday, February 27th, at the Monte Carlo Restaurant in West Springfield.

Dr. Nelson, along with six other contestants, spoke on the topic: "On the fast track to C.E.O., can a woman in the workplace be aggressive without compromising her ethics or being considered a shrew?"

Dr. Nelson owns her own chiropractic office in Feeding Hills, Hampden County Chiropractic. She attended the University of Massachusetts and received her Doctor of Chiropractic from Western States Chiropractic College in Portland, Oregon.

Dr. Nelson has a busy schedule speaking on health-related topics to a variety of groups, as well as being both a wife and mother. She has served on the Agawam Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and is involved in many different community activities.

Dr. Nelson will advance in the Young Careerist program to represent Springfield in the Western Regional competition held in April. If successful, she will advance further to the state challenge. The winner at the state level will represent Massachusetts at the annual conference of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women for the nationwide competition.

Other contestants were Heidi J. Augusto, a customer service representative for the American Honda Finance Corporation; Kimberly Kenney-Rockwal, a CVS employee; Amy Liptak, Community Relations Manager of the Children's Study Home; Alia A. Pierce, Operations Manager for the Agency Group; Shaheena Pollins, a case manager at the YWCA of Western Massachusetts; and Linda Tucker, Manager of Support Services for the Montachusettis Girl Scout Council.

Attorney Letellier Relocates Offices

Attorney Gina-Marie Letellier, of the law firm LaCroix & Fuller, is pleased to announce the relocation of their offices from 95 State Street, Springfield, to 1391 Main Street, Springfield.

Attorney Letellier, an Agawam native and lifelong resident, will continue to offer professional legal services with a personal touch, including home visits and her "Wills on Wheels" program in the Agawam-West Springfield area.

In order to meet the needs and schedules of all clientele, Attorney Letellier will continue to offer evening and Saturday appointments at the new and convenient downtown Springfield office or at your home. Convenient parking is available at the Civic Center garage.

Residents with questions about civil and probate matters such as divorces, divorce modifications, paternitys, child support, child custody, wills, probation of estates, living wills, health care proxies, personal injuries, auto accidents, municipal law, real estate closings, or landlord and tenant issues are welcome to contact Attorney Letellier for a free initial consultation.

After the initial consultation, the fee for legal services is the same whether you go to the Springfield office or Attorney Letellier travels to your home.

Attorney Gina-Marie Letellier is the daughter of retired Agawam Police Officer Walter "Terry" Letellier and Maryanne M. Letellier of Agawam. In addition to receiving her law degree from Western New England College School of Law, Attorney Letellier is a 1985 honors graduate of Agawam High School, and a 1989 honors graduate of Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

For additional information or to make an appointment, do not hesitate to call (413) 739-2112.

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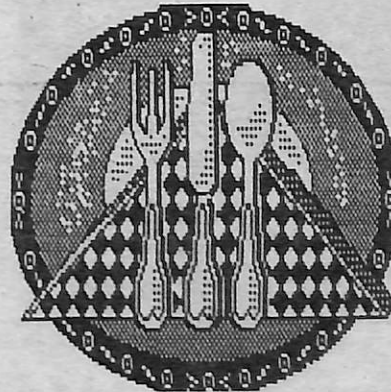


**Agawam
Lions Club**



**Corned Beef and
Cabbage Supper**

all proceeds to benefit eye research and other
Lions supported charities



Wednesday, March 20th
5 pm to 7 pm

**Agawam Middle School
Main Street, Agawam**

Adults \$6.50 - Children \$3.50

Lioness Bake Sale Too!



BARRY BOCCASILE



KATHLEEN BOCCASILE



JOAN LUCHINI



DIANE CLEARWATER



JOHN COUGHLIN



PEG LIS BARONE



JOHNNY BLAND



PAT DORAN



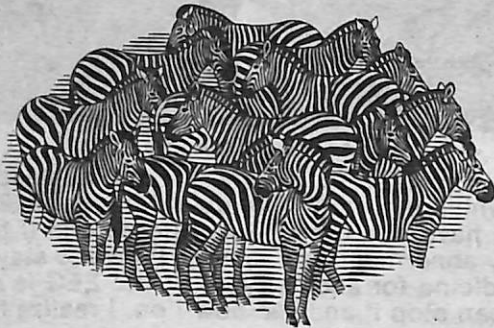
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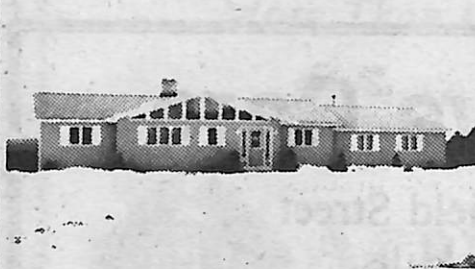
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For Your Health

Laura Bucalo To Join Other Children Being Honored At Dinner Dance For Epilepsy On March 9th

For the past few weeks, we have been featuring children from Agawam and the surrounding areas whose daily lives are affected by Epilepsy.

An estimated one percent of the population of the United States (1 in 150 people) have Epilepsy. However, 80 percent of those affected with seizure disorders are able to have their seizures controlled with medication and/or diet. Unfortunately for the 20 percent who suffer from uncontrolled seizures, life can be far from normal.

We hope that we have increased your knowledge of Epilepsy and how devastating this illness can be to its victims and their families. Our goal is to raise the money needed to continue the research that may someday find a cure and end the suffering.

The following letter was written by a 12 year-old Agawam girl whose seizures are controlled by medication. She came to us and wanted to help; we hope you'll want to help, too.

Hi, my name is **Laura Bucalo** and I have a seizure disorder. I am 12 years-old and am in the seventh grade at the Agawam Junior High.

I have to take 200 milligrams of Tegretol three times a day. However, having a seizure disorder does not keep me from being active. I play on basketball, soccer, and softball teams, and I am an honor roll student.

I also have terrific friends; none of them have ever made a negative comment about me having this health problem.

My first seizure happened when I was only a year old. The doctors said that it was caused by a high temperature. I don't remember that seizure at all because I was too young.

My next one was about one year ago. My dad got very nervous and wanted to call 911, but my mother's a nurse and she stayed calm. She has had past experience with seizure disorders because her sister has had seizures all her life that are somewhat controlled by medication.

When I woke up from my seizure, I did not know what happened and I was very tired. The next couple of weeks I had lots of doctors' visits and lots of tests.

One of the tests I had was called an EEG, which explained that I had what is called Adolescent



LAURA BUCALO

Seizure Disorder. It occurs in our adolescent years which are from 11 years-old to about 19.

I will have another EEG in August and if they see any abnormal brain activity, I have to stay on my medicine for another year. If the EEG is normal, I can stop it and see how I do. I realize how fortunate I am because my seizures are controllable.

Please join me, my family, and friends at the second annual fundraising dinner dance for Epilepsy on Saturday, March 9th, at the Oaks Banquet Hall in Agawam. If you haven't already heard, "THE CRESCENTS" will be performing.

It is so important for us to raise money for research so maybe my friends like Michael, Nichole, and Shannon can have their seizures controlled by medication like I do.

It's not too late to still buy your tickets and help me and my friends raise money to help the researchers find a cure! Call Sue and Wayne Hearn (789-1529), Rich and Kathy Karam (786-5426), or Diane and Steve Penna (786-9284).

Relax Your Mind, Body, & Spirit At Fitness First

The Institute for Human Performance at Fitness First and Hampden County Chiropractic will co-sponsor an interactive workshop titled "Relax Your Mind, Body & Spirit" on Wednesday, March 13th, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. at Fitness First, 60 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Designed to show you ways to relieve your stress, this workshop will enable participants to try Tai Chi, Yoga, and learn how to give and receive a relaxing massage. The presenters will be Master Mike Wollmerhauser, Tai Chi Instructor; Mike Mason, Massage Therapist; and Debbie

Paruells, Yoga Instructor.

Each session during this 90-minute workshop will last for about 25 minutes. Bring a partner if you wish, as this will be a hands-on approach showing us the proper techniques to achieve relaxation and relieve stress ... something we could all use! A towel is recommended for the floor.

There is a \$5 fee per person, and space is limited. To reserve your space and/or to receive more information, call Fitness First at 786-1460.



Your Back And Your Health

by **Dr. Joseph S. Schlaffer**
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Years of training and experience, plus sophisticated techniques, enable your doctor of chiropractic to detect spinal problems. But here are some simple things you can do to find out if your spine is healthy.

1. Unbalanced Shoulders or Hips: Stand in front of a mirror and pick the same point on both hips and shoulders. Compare these points by imagining two horizontal lines connecting the points. They should be level.

2. Head Off-Center: Have a photo taken in front of a bare background. Draw a line connecting your hips. Draw a vertical line from the center of the line up through the center of your head. Does your head line up evenly with the center of your hips, or is it off-center? Do the same with a side photo. Is your head tilting forward or backward?

3. Range of Motion: Can you tilt and rotate your head and hips through a full range of motion without any pain or restriction? Both sides should have the same range of motion and be pain free, without any clicking or grinding noises.

4. Leg Length Inequality: Except in rare cases (an improperly healed fracture or muscle or joint disease), both legs should be the same length. But when your skeleton is out of alignment, you give the appearance of having a short leg. For this test, you need an assistant. With your shoes on, lie face down. Have your tester stand behind you. They look down at your feet, gently push your heels toward your head, and compare where the heels meet the shoes. They should line up.

5. Dual Scales: Place two bathroom scales side-by-side and stand with one foot on each. The weight distribution should be about the same. If not, it is a sign that your spine, hips, or head are off-center.

6. Foot Flare: While walking, simply look down at your feet. Do they both point forward, or does one foot appear to flare outward or inward? Do both? Foot flare may be a sign of a problem in the lower spine or hips.

If you see problems demonstrated by these simple, home self-tests, it is advisable to seek a chiropractic examination. Our offices are conveniently located at 192 Shoemaker Lane. Call 789-1369 or 789-1073.

Check our classified pages every week

Please remember our deadline is every Tuesday at noon.

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For Your Health - continued...



Living Well

by Rick Hersom
Fitness Director
Fitness First Health
and Fitness Center
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(413) 786-1460

The Non-Physical Benefits Of Exercise

Exercising can not only change the physical appearance of your body, it can also change the way you feel, the way you view things, and the way that people view you.

The first things that people think of when you mention exercise is weight loss, toning the abdominals for summer, or building muscles. These are important physical changes, but a well-rounded exercise program plays an important role in many non-physical ways.

1. Reduces stress level: exercise seems to clear the mind and dissipate nervous energy. You can be more focused and have more positive energy at work. This allows you to work more efficiently, and handle day-to-day problems with less anxiety.

2. Build your self-confidence: exercise seems to improve your mental outlook, and it improves the way you look and feel about yourself. People that feel good about themselves tend to radiate with self-confidence.

3. Increase your creativity: exercise increases oxygen flow to the mind, giving new energy. Because you can handle things more efficiently when exercising, you have more time to look for ways to improve things, and you are not afraid to put your ideas forward.

4. Your mood will improve: exercisers tend to be in better moods than if they did not exercise. This is true in general due to many of the things we have already talked about; with a low stress level, high self-confidence, and an energetic and creative mind, what is there to be in a bad mood about?



Chiropractic Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

Ice Hockey Injuries

I came across an interesting article in one of my chiropractic journals the other day, "On the Ice, Reducing the Risk of Catastrophic Cervical Spinal Injuries." As the wife of a recreational ice hockey player, I often hear the effects the day after my husband has played a game (the moans, groans, bruises, etc.).

Ice hockey is one of the most physically demanding sports. High-velocity collisions between players are part of the game. This can create a high probability of injury to players.

Since 1981, ice hockey has been identified as a major cause of spine injuries, especially between the ages of 11 and 20. There is a three-times-greater risk of neck injuries with hockey than there is with football. The primary mechanism of injury is a push or shove from behind into the boards, striking the top of the head.

One factor that has led to an increase in neck

injuries is the mandatory use of helmets and full face masks, which have led to a more aggressive style of play and have given players a sense of invulnerability to injury.

Prevention of injuries begins with education of dangerous on-ice situations and the importance of pre-season training. Neck muscle strength is important in prevention of injuries. Strength training not only builds bulk muscle power, but teaches contraction timing and proprioceptive awareness.

Because 50 percent of all serious cervical spine injuries are preceded by an episode of significant neck pain, any neck pain or injury becomes important. Players need to report neck pain to a coach, parent, trainer, or spouse.

All neck injuries should be treated promptly. Appropriate evaluation, treatment, and rehabilitation is essential to help minimize reoccurring injury. Reinjury is always a risk when the player returns to a collision sport environment like that of ice hockey.

The patient should not have any complaints of pain, numbness, or restricted motion before returning to the ice. Rehabilitation of "minor" spinal injuries is often overlooked and contributes to reinjury.

If your child or spouse is injured while playing ice hockey, get them evaluated by a chiropractor. **BE SAFE — NOT SORRY!**

Dr. Nelson maintains a practice at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills. She is available to answer questions on Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at 786-4820.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, March 14, 1996 at 7:30 PM in the Faolin Pelce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing is to hear the petition of Guldetti for work to be performed on Leonard Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: March 7, 1996

Noble Hospital To Host Respiratory Support Group

Noble Hospital's Better Breather's Support Group will meet on Monday, March 11th, at 2:00 p.m. in Auditorium A located on the ground floor of the hospital.

To register for the support group, call the Respiratory Department at 568-2811, ext. 5986.



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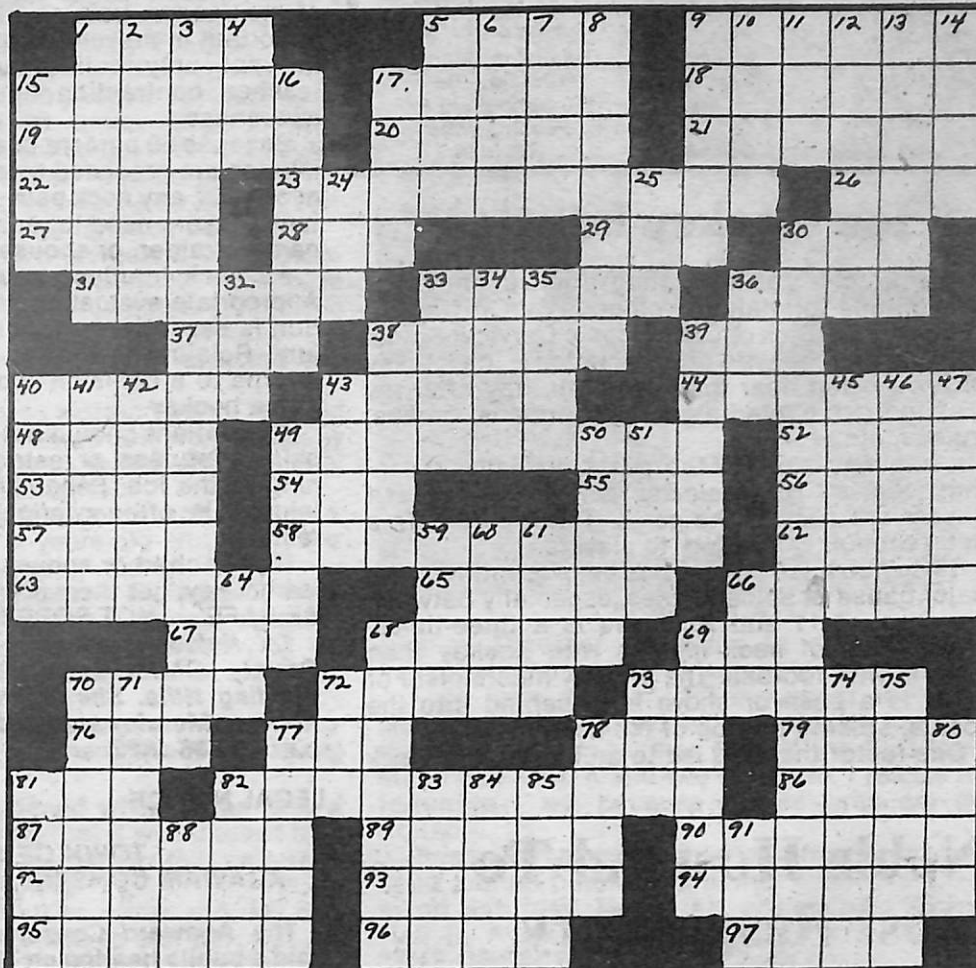


Arts

MEET THE MASTER - by Dick Mastroianni

ACROSS

- 1 Roy Rogers' lady
- 5 "Big — theory"
- 9 Removed the beard
- 15 Sucker fish
- 17 Roman Catholic celebration
- 18 "I am a —"
- 19 Men from Oman
- 20 Way to go
- 21 Noah's landing site
- 22 Zesty flavor
- 23 What lovers often do
- 26 Compass heading
- 27 "— partridge in a pear..."
- 28 Feedbag item
- 29 Matterhorn
- 30 "Busy as a —"
- 31 "In the — the night"
- 33 Knute Rockne was one
- 36 Foxx
- 37 Prefix for shipman or life
- 38 Singer Dinah
- 39 Arabian headland
- 40 Casaba
- 43 Wrap
- 44 Snare
- 48 Likely name in Norway
- 49 Best way to slide
- 52 Fairway warning
- 53 Wrongful act
- 54 Var. of aero
- 55 Collection
- 56 Automobile pioneer
- 57 Colorful fish
- 58 Show-biz good luck
- 62 Sub in a tub?
- 63 Mercantile transaction
- 65 French city
- 66 Certain collars
- 67 Pinky or Peggy
- 68 Actress Fields
- 69 England's air arm
- 70 "There oughta be —"
- 72 Things to kick
- 73 Christmas songs
- 76 Not many
- 77 A weekday (abbr.)
- 78 Bulgarian gold coin
- 79 Macerates
- 81 Palm leaf
- 82 Type of dance
- 86 Body politic
- 87 More headstrong
- 89 France's longest waterway
- 90 "So — my heart"
- 92 Mid-East rulers
- 93 "This —" (shipping instructions)

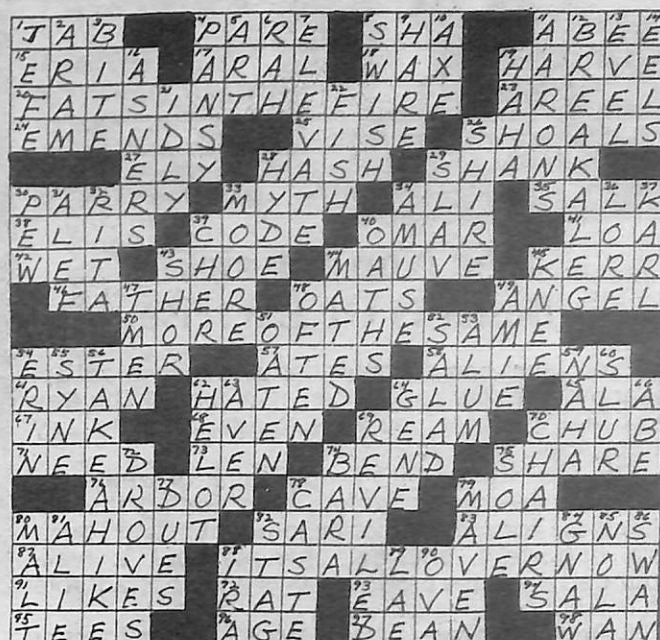


- 94 Thoroughfare
 - 95 Tenant
 - 96 Consider
 - 97 Totals up
- ### DOWN
- 1 Insist upon
 - 2 Actress Blake
 - 3 Stretching policeman
 - 4 Silkworm
 - 5 Lout
 - 6 Graduates for short
 - 7 Cock Robin reply
 - 8 Hand bomb
 - 9 Steep slope
 - 10 Injure
 - 11 M.D.'s org.
 - 12 Showing study
 - 13 Expunged
 - 14 Social event
 - 15 Curia tribunal
 - 16 "— as gold"
 - 17 Kin of darn or rats
 - 24 Lout
 - 25 Pub drink
 - 30 Show the best
 - 32 Relatives
 - 33 Word following long or big
 - 34 "Peter and the —"
 - 35 "Able was I —"

- saw Elba"
- 36 Moved fast
- 38 Cubic meter
- 39 Label again
- 40 Under the hood item
- 41 Marry on the run
- 42 Zhivago's love et al
- 43 E.S.P. user
- 45 Nancy's rich boy-friend
- 46 Eve of films
- 47 Mexican moolah
- 49 Aesop specialty
- 50 "— round the flag"
- 51 Snicker follower
- 59 Jai —
- 60 Oast
- 61 "— well that ends well"
- 64 Actor Ayres
- 66 Auricle

- 68 Removed from the pod
- 69 Black birds
- 70 On fire
- 71 Rents out
- 72 "A boy named —"
- 73 Bill's partner
- 74 Ogled in a way
- 75 Avers
- 77 Short of speech
- 78 Rung
- 80 Vegas machine
- 81 Pitcher Hershiser
- 82 Roll call response
- 83 The very best
- 84 Pheasant's nest
- 85 Snare
- 88 "For — a jolly good..."
- 91 Abbr. on an airport board

Last Week's Solution...



HILLTOP PLAYERS Announce Auditions For Spring Production

The HILLTOP PLAYERS Family Theatre announces auditions for its Spring production which will be the Broadway Musical "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" on March 10th and 11th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Red Door Theatre, 152 S. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA.

"ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" is a tongue-in-cheek telling of the classic children's story the Princess and the Pea filled with delightful songs and side-splitting hilarity.

The production is complete with a lonely prince, a bossy queen, a mute king, a wandering minstrel, lords and ladies-in-waiting, and, of course, a plethora of princesses-to-be. Mary Roder's musical score includes such old favorites as "In A Little While," "Normandy," and "Yesterday I Loved You."

Those people wishing to audition should prepare a selection of music and will be asked to read from the script. An accompanist will be provided.

Auditions are open to anyone age 16 and up. There will be a few non-speaking roles for children ages nine to 15.

For more information, call (413) 789-2026.

Jazz On The Ivories To Be Performed By SSO On March 9th

Pianist Jeffrey Biegel joins Maestro Mark Russell Smith and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra for *Jazz on the Ivories*, the Orchestra's third Pops concert of the season, on Saturday, March 9th, at 8:00 p.m. at Symphony Hall. The all-American program will include Gershwin's classic *Rhapsody in Blue* and Leroy Anderson's *Concerto in C*.

Biegel has been bringing audiences to their feet across the world since his debut in 1986 as the recipient of the prestigious Julliard/William Petschek Piano Debut Award. Leonard Bernstein remarked that Biegel was a "splendid musician and a brilliant performer" when the young pianist was just graduating from the famed Julliard School.

This concert is sponsored by BayBank and the Frank Stanley Beveridge Foundation and media sponsor WGGB News 40. Additional funding has been provided in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Business Friends of the Arts.

Seats are still available ranging from \$6 to \$33 at the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Box Office, 75 Market Place, or can be charged by phone at (413) 733-2291.



THE FRIENDS IN HARMONY community chorus will be presenting "Dedications," a musical comedy about a phone-in radio talk show at Bay Path College on March 15th and 16th.

Riverside Park's "Friends In Harmony" To Present "Dedications" At Bay Path

On March 15th and 16th, Riverside Park's "Friends in Harmony," a community chorus presents "DEDICATIONS," a musical comedy about a phone-in radio show and its hilarious announcer, as he makes his way through musical performances of the past and present.

Performances will be held at Bay Path College,

Route 5, Longmeadow, at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$5 per person. Proceeds will be donated to The House of Bread Soup Kitchen in Hartford, Ct.

Tickets will not be available at the door. For reservations, call 800-370-7488 or 413-786-9300, ext. 3400 or ext. 3014.

"The Crescents" To Perform At Fundraiser For Epilepsy Research

The Crescents, a 50's rock and roll showband, will perform live at The Oaks Banquet Hall on Saturday, March 9th. Cocktail hour will be from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., with dinner at 7:00.

Proceeds from the dinner dance will benefit The Epilepsy Foundation of Massachusetts.

Tickets are \$25 per person.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please call The Michael Pietroniro Fundraising Committee: Janet & Gary Shean, 786-2709; Sue & Wayne Hearn, 789-1529; Rich & Kathy Karam, 786-6426; Diane & Steve Penna, 786-9284; Rick & Kim Martel, 786-1169.

Look for articles in upcoming editions of this paper featuring local folks whose lives are affected by epilepsy.

STAGE To Present "THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS"

STAGE children's theatre will present Kenneth Graham's classic tale "THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS" at the Red Door Theatre, 152 S. Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, on March 15th and 16th at 7:30 p.m. and March 16th and 17th at 2:00 p.m.

The production is suitable for children three and up.

"THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS" is the delightful tale of the irrepressible Mr. Toad who goes hopping from one disastrous adventure to the next.

First he tries his hand at row-boating to which he ends up more in the water than out. Next he tries driving a motor car at which he is so reckless that all the animals on The River revolt and beg Mr. Badger to "do something, anything!"

From that adventure, he gets involved with the evil weasels of The Wild Wood and finds himself in jail. Poor Mr. Toad! But, does this stop him? Come and meet all the animals of The River - Mr. Rat, Mr. Mole, the Rabbit and Hare families, Squirrel, Otter, and many more as they try to reform their headstrong friend.

Children from Feeding Hills, Agawam, Suffield, West Springfield, Springfield, and Westfield are all participating in this production adapted for STAGE by Lyle Pearsons.

Tickets are \$4. Reserve your seats early. Call (413) 789-2026.



THE 50'S ROCK AND ROLL SHOWBAND "The Crescents" will perform at The Oaks this Saturday evening, March 9th, for a dinner dance to benefit The Epilepsy Foundation of Massachusetts.

Encore Players To Present The Musical Mystery "Something's Afoot"

The Encore Players will present "Something's Afoot," a musical mystery by James McDonald, David Vos, and Robert Gerlach. Performances will be at the Lower Level Theater, St. Luke's Church, 961 St. James Avenue, Springfield (near Serv-U), on March 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th at 8:00 p.m. (except for Sunday matinees at 2:00 p.m.).

This rollicking, fun-filled musical whodunit takes place during a raging thunderstorm where the house guests are picked off by clever devices, and the survivors race to discover the culprit.

Waldo Goodermote of East Longmeadow, a well-known, skillful director/actor, is directing,

staging, and choreographing this production, which takes place in 1935. The pianist is Carla Newmark of Springfield.

Members of the cast are Bob Tongue, Amy Helt, and Wayne Robertson of Springfield; Daphne Calkins of Holyoke; Mark Lehouillier and Chris Daly of Chicopee; Laura Scantlen, Sal Marzano, and Dale Facey of Agawam; and Jennifer Brown of Belchertown.

Tickets are available at The Golden Peacock, White Street (at Sumner Avenue), Springfield, and range in price from \$7 to \$9. Please call (413) 533-6720 for information between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

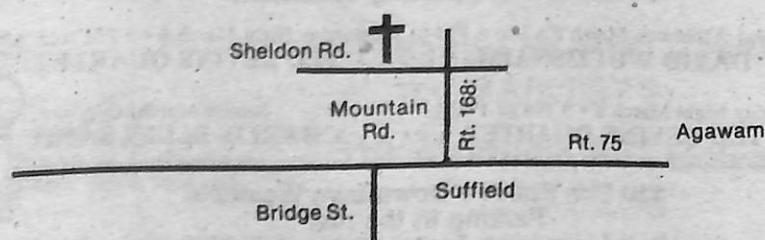
Check our classifieds every week...

Our deadline is each Tuesday at 12:00 noon. Thank you for your cooperation!



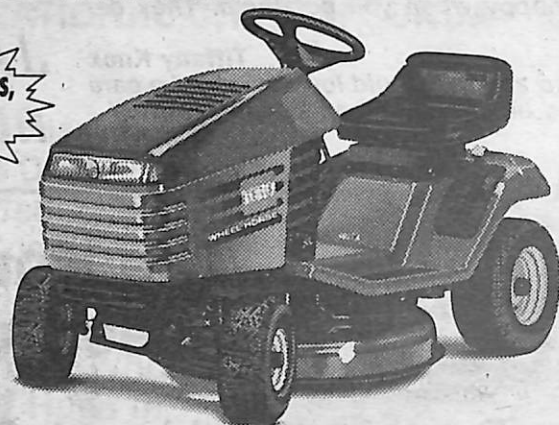
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Education

Phelps First Graders Raise Funds For Animal Shelter

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

They may be abandoned and unwanted by their adult owners, but the animals awaiting adoption at the MSPCA shelter in Springfield have some small friends with big hearts in Agawam.

Beginning in January, the 75 first graders at Phelps School ran a soda can and bottle redemption drive to benefit the animals at the shelter.

In a little over one month, the children and their parents redeemed 6,000 can and bottles and collected dozens of used blankets and towels to be used for bedding at the shelter.

On Valentine's Day, teachers Sylvia Sullivan, Janis Noyes, and Ann Marie Bellico welcomed shelter manager Nancy Carroll and Scoop (assistant Pam Peebles), the shelter's feline mascot, to a heartfelt celebration of the spirit of the holiday.

"A check for \$320 was given to the shelter as a result of the bottle/can collection," Mrs. Sullivan said. "The aim of the project was to teach the children responsible pet care and to instill a sense of respect, kindness, and compassion for all living creatures."

With assistance from Scoop, Nancy Carroll presented a lesson in pet care and awarded a certificate of appreciation to each class. The children all received bumper stickers and personal stickers from the MSPCA and each child received a heart-shaped pin with the picture of an actual animal at the shelter waiting for a new home. Printed on each pin are the words, "I helped."

"It's really great to give the kids the sense that even though they are young, they can do something valuable to help," Mrs. Sullivan said. "It was the kids and the parents who made this so successful."

Lifelong Love Of Animals

A recipient of the MSPCA's Humane Educator of the Year award in 1990, Mrs. Sullivan said the project grew out of her lifelong love of animals. "I love teaching about animals. There's something special about the relationships between children and animals."

As part of their study of pets and responsible pet care, the children wrote and illustrated a story about pets. The stories have been bound into book form and copies have been donated to the Rowley Memorial Animal Hospital, the Agawam Animal Hospital, and the Feeding Hills Animal Hospital. The books will be kept in the waiting rooms for pet owners to enjoy and are sure to bring a smile.

Excerpts from Mrs. Sullivan's class:

Once I had an old dog. He was my best friend. When I was a baby, he would walk with me all around the house.

Steven Butt

I wish I had a cat. I would love her and take good care of her. She would be good to me.

Ashley O'Keefe

Pets are happy when you get them. They depend on you.

Tiffany Knox

I wish I had a dog. I would love it and take care of it. It would be my friend and I'd love it, too!"

Adam Witte



FIRST GRADERS AT PHELPS SCHOOL raised funds for the MSPCA through a bottle and can drive beginning in January. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

My dog sits by me when I am hurt and he feels bad. He has a sad face.

Thomas Albano

Excerpts from Mrs. Noyes' class:

I like my dog. He does not bite me.

Leslie Chiclana

Buster can run fast. He likes to play with me. But he bit my finger.

Peter Kucienski

Nike can swim. He swims in my aunt's pool.

John Rossi

If I could have a pet I would like a dog. I would name him Checkers.

Joshua Brandon

Mittens eats two cans of food a day. When I have on my bathrobe, Mittens plays with the belt.

Kevin Osgood

Excerpts from Mrs. Bellico's class:

I groom him every day. I teach him how to do tricks. He's a great dog.

Michael Copland

People—you can take care of lost pets. If you find one, bring the pet to the veterinarian.

Ashley-Anne Wobs

My pet's name is Fancy. He is a hamster. He is nocturnal. So we keep him in the bathroom at night.

Lauren Sotolotto

I wish my pet would be born on January 2nd. He would have fun. He would not chase cats.

Christopher Cross

I have a lizzard. His name is Max. Max likes to eat alot. I let him out in my room. He likes to climb on my wall.

Timothy Zucco



MSPCA MANAGER Nancy Carroll (standing) and mascot Scoop (Pam Peebles) are pictured with Phelps School students Dirk Gendron, Sabrina Scaife, Alyssa Bonavita, and Holly DeFilippi. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Junior High School Schedules Spring Parent's Night

As the result of five inclement weather days occurring during the second marking term, an adjustment was made to the report card and warning notice schedule at the Agawam Junior High School.

Consequently, Spring Parent's Night has been rescheduled to Monday evening, March 18, 1996, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

School principal Kevin C. Littlefield states that all parents of seventh and eighth grade students are welcome to attend the annual conference night, which features brief meetings with teachers and staff members. Classroom secretaries will schedule five-minute appointments with individual teachers that evening.

Mr. Littlefield points out that Spring Parent's Night is an excellent opportunity for parents to visit the school where they may review their child's academic progress.

Youth Cheerleading Slates Info Meeting For Tues., March 19th

There will be an informational meeting for parents of all students who are interested in trying out for the Agawam Youth Cheerleading Assoc., on Tuesday, March 19th at the Agawam Public Library at 7:30 p.m.

Any student residing in Agawam and entering fifth or sixth grade, will be eligible for the Jr. squad, and any child entering seventh or eighth grade will be eligible for the Sr. squad.

Please, do not bring your children to the library. This meeting is for parents/guardians only. Thank you for your co-operation. See you there.

Knights Of Columbus Creates Scholarship For High School Senior

The John F. Kennedy, Council 5585, of the Knights of Columbus, Agawam, MA is pleased to announce the formation of a new scholarship in honor of President Kennedy.

The \$100 scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior who is a resident of Agawam. All applicants will be expected to show proof of their completion of a Catholic Religious Education program at their high school or A.C.C.D. program at their Parish.

An application and complete set of criteria will be available at the Agawam High School Scholarship Fair to be held this year on Thursday, March 14th.

Completed and signed applications are due on or before April 12, 1996.

Keenan Says U-Plan College Savings Prog. Is Taking Enrollees

Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to announce that the state's college savings plan, the U-Plan, began accepting new enrollees on March 1st. Last year, 28,700 families took the first step toward guaranteeing their children a college education, making the U-Plan the most successful pre-paid college savings program in the country.

"This program provides families across the economic spectrum with the opportunity to access higher education. Surveys indicate that 93 percent of all families are concerned about their ability to pay for college," stated Rep. Keenan. "This program alleviates that concern by providing a sensible, effective, low-cost savings plan."

Among the many advantages to enrolling in the program is that individuals can lock in tomorrow's tuition at today's prices. The investment will be used to purchase state bonds which, in turn, pay a guaranteed percentage of tuition at one of the 75 participating colleges and universities in Massachusetts, regardless of future tuition increases. Because this is accomplished with no state funds, the U-Plan has proven to be an exceptional deal for families and taxpayers alike.

Interested parties can obtain further information regarding the U-Plan and other state programs by calling Representative Keenan at (413) 786-4545 or the Massachusetts Educational Finance Authority at 1-800-449-MEFA.

Jr. Women To Sponsor Essay Contest For Middle School Students

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is sponsoring an essay contest for all fifth and sixth grade students.

We are asking students to imagine this: You've been given one extraordinary power by "Harry the Magnificent." What will it be, and how will you use it?

Each essay must be a minimum of one page and not more than two, and will be judged on creativity, originality, legibility, and content. Entries must be submitted to the Middle School office no later than March 22nd.

Winners will be announced prior to April 26th, and prizes will be awarded to the students with the best essays. Rules have been sent home with all Middle School students.

Anyone wishing another copy, please call Donna Shibley at 786-3888 or Betty Vershon at 786-4357.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts.

Best local news - AAN!

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, March 11th: Pepperoni-topped pizza, tossed garden salad with spinach greens & creamy dressing, chilled fruit cup, milk.

Tuesday, March 12th: Hamburg in gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned mixed vegetables, wheat bread & butter, chocolate brownie, milk.

Wednesday, March 13th: Rotini with meatsauce, seasoned green beans, Italian bread & butter, jello with topping or orange wedges, milk.

Thursday, March 14th: Oven-baked chicken nuggets, seasoned carrots, steamed parsley rice, bread & butter, chilled peaches or chocolate pudding with topping, milk.

Friday, March 15th: Tuna salad sandwich, oven potato puffs with catsup, tossed garden salad with dressing, ice cream cup, milk.

Annual Book Fair At Ag. Middle School To Start March 19th

The Agawam Middle School PTO is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair on March 19th, 20th, and 21st during school hours.

This reading event features the newest titles from over 100 publishers and presents students, parents, and teachers a golden opportunity to see the latest works by popular authors and illustrators of books for young readers.

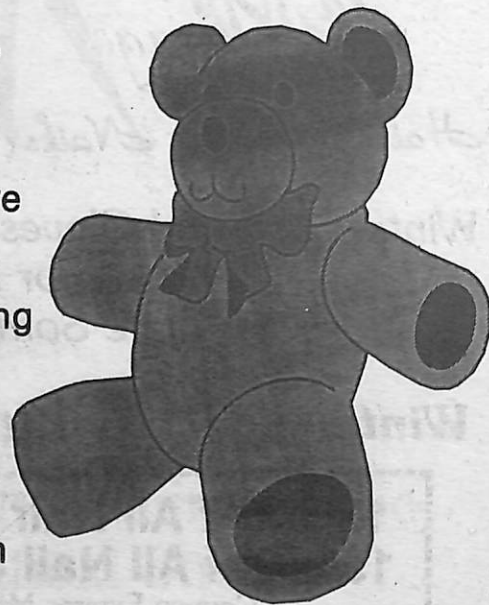
If any parents would like to volunteer an hour or two of their time to work at the book fair, please contact Mary Beth Sheehan at 789-3534 or Janice Lapins at 786-6806.

ADVERTISER NEWS

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AHS Guidance...

by Judith Cohen
Acting Director
AHS Guidance Dept.

This Is A Very Busy Time...

This is a very busy time for the High School Guidance Department.

We have been working diligently to process college applications and scholarship forms for our Seniors. With Juniors, we are going over the college process and vocational planning.

We are meeting with Sophomores and Freshmen to review their progress and to discuss other matters that may need to be aired.

These are the important dates to remember:

* **March 11th—College Fair.** A bus will take students to the Big E where the Juniors will be able to access information about various colleges and vocational schools. Permission forms must be signed, and there is a \$2 fee that must be paid. Parents may accompany their children to the Fair on March 10th.

* **March 14th—Scholarship Fair at the High School Cafeteria.** Seniors and their parents are encouraged to come and pick up scholarship forms. The Fair is from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

* **April 25th—Information Night for Juniors.** Save the date. The college process will be discussed, post-graduate alternatives will be mentioned, and there will be ample opportunity for questions and answers.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES - Congratulations! Derek Benton, Curry College; Mike Domangue, Keene State; Eric Johnson, UMASS/Lowell; Christy Dubay, Univ. of New Hampshire; Jamle Scherban, Univ. of Connecticut and Merrimack College; Melissa Murphy, Roger Williams and Merrimack; Matthew Radwanski, Assumption; Kelly Carmody, UMASS; Jen Clark, College of New Rochelle and UMASS; Jeff Rousseau, Northeastern, Endicott, Univ. of Hartford, and WNEC; Dan Houle, Hofstra; Christy Aguinaga, HCC.

Betsy Gervais, SUNY; Jon David, AIC; Nancy Cuccovia, HCC; Rebecca White, Hofstra; Ceciley Rivest, Hesser; Sue DeFilippi, UMASS; Chris Chechile, Sacred Heart; Keith Sidusky, Nichols, Becker, and Fitchburgh State; Nicole Boyer, Westfield State; Courtne Hyland, Merrimack, UMASS, and Univ. of Hartford; Kerri Lawrence, Merrimack and Bay Path.

Elizabeth McGrew, Univ. of Arizona; Kristin Tierney, Springfield College, Beaver, D'Youville, and Univ. of New England; Jeffrey Gaylor, Bridgewater State; Kelly Liard, Univ. of Hartford and Bridgewater State; Jason Devine, UMASS/Dartmouth; Tim Conklin, Bridgewater State;

Kristin Scarlett, UMASS; Dan Viens, UMASS; Kara McDade, Assumption and Framingham State; Nathan Murray, Westfield State; Tim Conklin, Roger Williams.

SCHOLARSHIPS - See your counselor for more information.

John C. Quinn, Jr. Scholarship - This \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to a minority student who excels in journalism and plans to study journalism in college. Deadline: May 25, 1996.

Boston Guild for the Hard of Hearing Scholarship - \$1,000 will be awarded to a student with a hearing loss who plans to pursue a two- or four-year college education. Deadline: March 29, 1996.

Pascal A. Dellso Scholarship - Open to students whose mother or father is of Italian descent and who have been accepted to a two- or four-year college. The applicant must show a commitment to the Roman Catholic faith, high academic merit and a willingness to render community and civic service. Deadline: April 29, 1996.

Valley Press Club Scholarship - Three \$1,000 scholarships will be offered to Springfield area students who plan to major in journalism. Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability and scholastic aptitude and achievement as measured by an applicant's grades and SAT scores. Deadline: April 1, 1996.

UMASS Dartmouth Merit Scholarships are available to talented students who plan to attend UMASS/Dartmouth.

National Kidney Foundation of Western Mass and Rhode Island Scholarship - An eligible applicant must be a kidney disease patient or immediate relative of a kidney disease patient. Recipients will be chosen on the basis of need and merit. Deadline: June 1, 1996.

Michael T. Dobiecki Memorial Scholarship - This scholarship is awarded on the basis of scholastic merit, civic achievement and financial need. The applicant must attend a four-year college. Deadline: March 31, 1996.

Fitchburg State Merit Scholarships - Available to high achieving students who plan to attend Fitchburg.

Husson College Academic Honors Scholarships - Available to academically talented students who plan to attend Husson.

OPEN HOUSES - See your counselor for more information.

Lawrence Memorial Hospital School of Nursing - Thursday, April 4th, 7:00 p.m.

Maine Maritime Academy - Monday, March 11th, Holiday Inn, Holyoke, 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Green Mountain College - March 11th.

Hallmark School of Photography - March 10th and April 21st.

Elizabethtown College - April 13th.

American International College - March 30th, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Northeastern College of Engineering - March 30th.

Daemen College Spring Open House - March 30th.

Framingham State College Family and Consumer Science Open House - March 23rd, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Foreign Languages May Be Spread To All Agawam Schools

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The World Languages Department at Agawam High School is forming a study group to look at options for expanding language education into the elementary schools.

World Languages Academic Coordinator Melanie Poudrier has received a grant to investigate curriculum options for foreign language study beginning in kindergarten and continuing on through the 12th grade.

With the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks recommending foreign language study for students in Pre K through high school, with assessment testing in grades four, eight, and 10 by 1999, Ms. Poudrier is looking for elementary school administrators, teachers, and parents to join her in developing a plan for Agawam's students.

The study group's first meeting will be Thursday, March 14th, from 3:30 until approximately 5:00 p.m. in Room 46 at AHS. Subsequent meetings will likely be held on alternate Thursday afternoons at the High School.

In addition to teachers and administrators, Ms. Poudrier is hoping to get at least one parent volunteer from each of the four elementary schools.

"We really want elementary people involved, especially parents," Ms. Poudrier said. "We need their input. We need to know what they think."

According to linguistics experts, children are born with an innate language acquisition ability to learn an infinite number of languages, but that ability begins to diminish at age 12 when most schools are just beginning to introduce foreign language study.

"I would like to see foreign language study starting at kindergarten because that's when kids learn language best," Ms. Poudrier said. "Kids who start before age 12 have a natural ability and fluency. They love to imitate and play with sounds, and that's why they can learn to speak a foreign language without an accent."

Group Will Review Curriculum Frameworks, Etc.

The World Languages Study Group will review the state curriculum frameworks, review the current language curriculum offered in Agawam, observe Pre K-12 programs in nearby communities, and discuss curriculum development with visiting professionals.

The group's goal is to develop a Pre K-12 curriculum and a timeline for implementation of a revised language curriculum for Agawam students by the end of the school year.

The group will look at several options, including total immersion, half-day instruction in a foreign language, and the possibility of offering instruction in different languages at the elementary schools.

"Some people think we should automatically choose Spanish, but I don't believe that," Ms. Poudrier said. "We could have a different language at the four elementary schools."

Anyone interested in serving on the study group can contact Ms. Poudrier at the High School, 789-1400, ext. 421.

Miss Agawam Beauty Pageant Slated For Monday, April 1st At Chez Josef

The 9th Annual Miss Agawam Beauty Pageant & Talent Competition, slated for April 1st, at Chez Josef on Shoemaker Lane, is seeking participants in all age categories.

The event is under the director of Lori Andruss

Boyle of Feeding Hills, owner and operator of Hollywood Productions.

For information and entry form, please call 732-3411.



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GRANGER SCHOOL PRINCIPAL PHYLLIS LEWIS is pictured with winners of the Peterjons Gourmet Ice Cream Valentine Contest. Student winners included Lindsay Pafumi, Jimmy Pietroniro, and Crystal Bianco. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Peterjons Gourmet Ice Cream Announces Valentine Winners

Once again, Peterjons Gourmet Ice Cream sponsored its Valentine Contest for students at Granger School.

The valentines were displayed in the store for the month of February. Many beautiful valentines were entered, and the judging was most difficult.

The winners selected were:

- * 1st place - Lindsay Pafumi, Rm. 14
- * 2nd place - Crystal Bianco, Rm. 14
- * 3rd place - Jimmy Pietroniro, Rm. 18

We wish to thank everyone who made these beautiful valentines to decorate the store. The winners were presented gift certificates for free sundaes.

School Committee & Teachers' Union Plan Meeting To Discuss Education Reforms

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

In the spirit of cooperation—you bring the donuts, we'll put on the coffee—the School Committee agreed to meet with the teachers' union for a Saturday morning workshop session to discuss ongoing negotiations to comply with education reform mandates left unresolved in the teachers' contract signed last fall.

At the February 27th meeting of the School Committee, Agawam Education Association (AEA) President Andrew Bower asked for the workshop session so that both sides of the negotiating table could better understand each other's needs.

In order to meet state mandates on time and learning, professional development and performance standards, the School Committee and the union must consider the three issues together, Bower said.

"You can't separate those three elements," Bower said. "If you do, you're making a grave mistake."

An initial report detailing the school district's plans for complying with time and learning requirements for the 1996-1997 school year must be sent to the Department of Education by the end of March and a plan for the 1997-1998 school year must be completed by the end of June.

School Committee member Linda Galarneau said the School Department would have to prioritize spending to cover the cost of curriculum revi-

sion and professional development.

"It's Going To Take Money"

Improving test scores and working toward excellence, "is not going to happen without professional development and materials to support the curriculum. It's going to take money and we can't give to everything else that people come forward with," Mrs. Galarneau said.

Bower said complying with state time and learning mandates by 1997 is difficult to accomplish in a school system with a short school day at the High School.

"We can't meet time and learning without a monumental plan to restructure the school day," Bower said.

Bower said teachers at the High School can't be expected to restructure their school day and change teaching styles without more training and more training is needed for elementary school teachers, especially in the area of computers and audio/visual technology.

Bower said he did not think the union could formulate a plan to present to their membership without first meeting with the School Committee.

School Committee member Rosemary Sandlin agreed that "open dialogue is necessary to understand each other's needs."

The workshop will be held at the Junior High School on Saturday, March 9th at 9:00 a.m.

Heritage Hall Nursing Home Announces \$500 Scholarship For Class Of 1996

Heritage Hall Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Agawam, a member of the Genesis ElderCare Network, is proud to announce a new scholarship fund.

A \$500 scholarship will be awarded to an Agawam resident graduating from high school in June 1996 and entering an accredited two- or four-year educational institution.

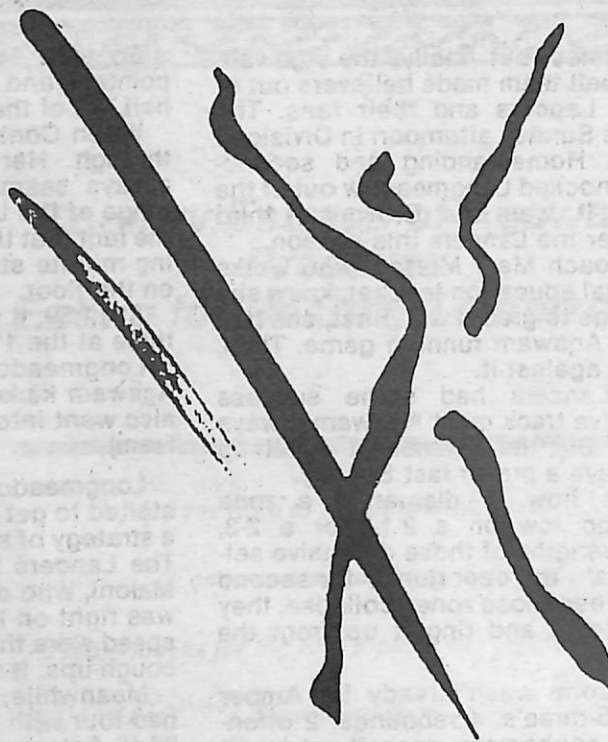
The applicant's major must be in a healthcare

related field such as, but not limited to: Nursing, Rehabilitation Therapy, Health Care Administration, Social Work, Recreational Therapy, etc.

The deadline for consideration is April 1, 1996. Interested applicants should call Kimberly George, Director of Volunteer Services at Heritage Hall. She can be reached at 786-8000, extension 217.

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Sports

Brownies Rally But Fall Short...

Taconic Of The Berkshires Needs Semi-Final OT To Drop AHS

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High girls' basketball team had its dream of a Western Mass title sidetracked Tuesday night at the hands of Taconic High School up at the Curry Hicks Cage. Agawam was the second seed in the Division I tournament and favored by some to grab its fourth Western Mass crown in the last 10 years. The Lady Braves, seeded third, obviously don't believe everything written in the papers, as they came away with a 53-50, overtime win.

Not to take anything away from Taconic, but this wasn't the usual Agawam hoop performance. Hardwood hustle is the cornerstone of their game. On Tuesday night, they were moving like the floor and the bottom of their sneakers were covered with Velcro.

Coach Lou Conte explained, "It's hard to get any kind of up-tempo game going when you're only getting one shot at the basket." Then he added, "They were also getting at least two people back quickly on defense for most of the night."

The Lady Braves were denying Agawam the lanes. Therefore, it was difficult in the early going for the main Brownie penetrators, Barbara Maloni (23 points, including 9-10, 5 rebounds, 4 offensive) and Kristen Patterson (7 points, 8 rebounds), to do their thing. And the Brownie press wasn't working either, which added to the slow halfcourt battle for the first half and much of the second.

At the 7:09 mark, Taconic led 14-9. Many of their points were coming off weak side screens. The Brownies were out of synch, as their usually high-powered transition game was sputtering. They were standing around on offense more than they had all season. Taconic led 18-11 with 3:30 to play. They ended the half with a 26-17 lead.

Problems From The Field For AHS...

The Brownies had problems from the field in the first 16 minutes. They went 7-21 (33 percent) from the floor and 3-5 from the line. They had 20 boards, five of which were offensive. That's good production off the glass. But Taconic wasn't letting them do much with the outlet pass. Agawam had nine turnovers.

Taconic, playing patient defense, wasn't particularly shy when it had the ball. Witness the fact that they put it up 32 times, hitting the hole on 12 occasions for a 37 percent average. They went 2-2 from the line and had 13 boards and only four turnovers.

Agawam tried a semi-press early in the second half, which brought cheers from the Brownie faithful who thought their real team had finally shown up. But Taconic, behind the ball-handling of its fine senior guard Maureen Michaels (21 points, including 4-7, three offensive boards), and on-target outlet passes from sophomore center Hollie Steinman (15 points, including 7-8 from the stripe, 9 rebounds), broke it up.

With three minutes gone in the half, the Lady Braves had extended their lead, 31-19.

With 4½ minutes gone, Taconic had scored only one field goal. Agawam had two. Perhaps the fact that their defense was still in gear began to spur on the Brownies. They had started a grim comeback and were hoping their offense would hang on for what promised to be a wild ride.

Amber Conte (7 points, including a three, 2 rebounds) hit two from the floor. Patterson hit 1-2 from the line. Maloni grabbed a Taconic turnover and laid it in for two. It was 34-26 Taconic at 9:44.

Two Melissa Cote (2 points, 2 rebounds) free

throws saw the Brownies down 37-31 with 6:52 left. The Lady Braves seemed to be bending. Agawam was searching desperately for the clean break.

With 4:30 to go, center Pia Bertone-Gross (7 points, including 3-6, 13 rebounds, 9 offensive) pulled down an offensive board and scored. Maloni grabbed her own stray shot 20 seconds later and put it in. Then she canned two free throws with 2:40 left in regulation. Suddenly it was 44-40, Taconic.

The Lady Braves got one back on a Michaels free throw. Then Conte had the Brownie faithful hooting like a barn full of owls when she drained a three after Bertone-Gross fed her an offensive rebound. Agawam trailed 45-43 with 1:17 left.

Sarah Cote (6 rebounds) got a big defensive board with 50 ticks left to stifle a Taconic scoring opportunity. A Brownie turnover a few seconds later gave the Lady Braves the rock with 22 seconds to go.

They didn't take advantage of their scoring opportunity. Agawam did instead. Maloni grabbed the 'bound off an errant shot and sprinted to the Agawam hoop. A soft lay-up tied it up at 45 even. Overtime was next.

An Excruciating Four Minutes...

It was an excruciating four minutes for both the players and the Brownie faithful. Right off the bat, Michaels scored three points on a hoop and one from the stripe to make it 48-45.

Maloni got two back with some calm work at the line.

SEE GIRLS' HOOP - Page 37...

AHS Girls Drop Longmeadow For Third Time This Year In Quarterfinals, 65-44

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It took three games, but finally, the Agawam High girls' basketball team made believers out of the Longmeadow Lancers and their fans. The latest lesson came Sunday afternoon in Division I quarter-final play. Homestanding and second-seeded Agawam knocked Longmeadow out of the festivities, 65-44. It was the Brownies' third straight victory over the Lancers this season.

Longmeadow Coach Mary Murray, who works at AHS as a physical education teacher, knew she had to do two things to grab a win. First, she had to slow down the Agawam running game. Then, she had to defend against it.

Actually, the Lancers had some success against the offensive track meet Agawam always seems to call up. But the defense (a match-up zone) just didn't have a prayer last Sunday.

Agawam knows how to dismantle a zone defense. They'll go low on a 2-1-2 or a 2-3, challenging the strengths of those defensive set-ups (rebound denial - the opportunity for second and third shots). When those zones collapse, they take a taxi downtown and ring it up from the cheap seats.

Longmeadow's zone wasn't ready for Amber Conte (15 points, 5-three's, 4 rebounds, 2 offensive). Conte, just a sophomore, doesn't get much ink. But she is always on call to assassinate a zone 'D.' She plays the weak side. Not too many people pay attention to her on the floor because they don't recognize what a weapon she is. Her teammates get the picture, though.

Longmeadow, regarding Conte, should have gotten a wake-up call in this one. She has a pure shot that's somewhere between a jumper and a set shot. If she gets a chance to line it up, well, say hello to some spectacular shot-making.

Lancers Overplay Agawam Guards

She did just that. Longmeadow was overplaying the Agawam guards on the strong side. Sophomore Kristen Patterson (21 points, including 3-three's, 8-8 from the line, 4 rebounds), freshman Barbara Maloni (6 points/4 rebounds), and senior Courtne Hyland (2 points/1 rebound) saw what the Lancers were trying to pull off. They saw Conte alone around the outer limits of the circle. They hit her with pinpoint passes. Usually, there wasn't a Lancer within 10 feet of her.

So, she launched. Conte took seven three-pointers and hit five, including four in the first half. All of the treys she hit were nothing but net.

When Conte wasn't available, Patterson came through. Her three second-half three-pointers always seemed to keep Agawam just out of range of the Lancers, who were fired up. Witness the fact that the kids on the bench spent the opening minute standing and applauding their mates on the floor.

At 11:59, it was 7-2 Agawam. Conte hit her first three at the 11:28 mark.

Longmeadow tried a semi-press at 9:20. Agawam kicked its in a minute later. The locals also went into a 2-3 zone (strange for this type of team).

Longmeadow, which had 13 first-half turnovers, started to get shaky when seeing the zone. (It was a strategy of surprise on the part of the Brownies.) The Lancers turned it over two times in a row. Maloni, who does so many things besides score, was right on top of the ball. Her vision and hand speed were the difference. She converted on both cough-ups. It was 22-9 Agawam, at the 5:13 mark.

Meanwhile, Conte was hitting her three's. She had four with 2:00 left in the half. By then, it was 32-16 Agawam. The half ended 38-18, Brownies.

Agawam went 13-28 (46 percent) from the field, including the four three's by Conte. They went 8-8 from the stripe. They had nine boards.

Longmeadow found the hoop eight times on 18 shots (47 percent) from the field. They went 2-3 from the line. They also had nine rebounds.

Agawam had only seven turnovers. Longmeadow couldn't convert on any of them. The Lancers gave up points (five) on five of their 13 first-half mistakes.

The second half saw Agawam totally beat the Longmeadow zone. They saw the weak side three opportunity on almost every one of their offensive forays down the floor. And whether they got it or not, it wore on the Lancers. They just couldn't get over in time to set up again.

Here are the cases in point - Agawam has lost three times this year. Their first setback was to Monument Mountain (the top seed in Division II). Monument beat them in overtime (because Agawam didn't have its offense up and running). They lost six days later, 52-50 to West Side. The

Terriers ran with them all night long. They nipped West Side, 74-72 in a great overtime game on January 19th. They were on a 12-game win streak, but came up flat on both sides of the ball on February 13th, when Cathedral took them out, 58-52. They were beaten by mirrors in that one.

At the 4:33 mark, Agawam was up 58-33. The Lancers tried a press.

Fine Match-Up In The Paint

There were some fine match-ups in this one. One of the best was in the paint. There, Agawam freshman Pia Bertone-Gross, a future All-Western Mass. center, and the Lancers' Jessica Farmer (a sophomore) and another future All-Western Mass. performer, locked up.

Murray noted before the game that Farmer gets really hyped when she plays Bertone-Gross. That's obvious. The Agawam forward plays her position like she is made of silk. She spins her web in the lane and hits the five-foot 'J' better than anyone around. She posts up down low. You come into her territory and you do it at your own risk.

Farmer (at 5'11") plays Bertone-Gross (5'9") as hard as anyone can. (We've seen it three times.) On this afternoon, Farmer had a good game. She came up with 12 points and hit 2-4 from the line. She had seven boards (three offensive). Bertone-Gross had six points and three boards.

The difference was the intimidation factor. Bertone-Gross doesn't allow anyone to penetrate because she is right there - the last one in front of the hole. And she usually has a backside trailer (Maloni, Patterson, Thomas) to clean the glass.

But in the end, it all came down to the total picture. "Amber hurt us big-time," Murray observed. "There's 15 points in the game." Coach (Lou) Conte gave his team a great compliment. "They are all outstanding athletes."

Agawam went 10-17 (58 percent) in the second half. They put up four three's on nine attempts. They went 3-4 from the line. Their total shot-making was 23-45. That translates into a 51 percent average. They committed six turnovers in the second half.

Longmeadow put it up 18 times from the field and hit eight in the second half. They had three treys on seven tries. They went 7-9 from the line. They pulled it down 11 times. They only had six turnovers.

AHS Cheerleaders Integral Part Of School's Athletics

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

There is a group of athletes at Agawam High School who probably don't get the recognition they deserve. They don't score touchdowns or swish long three-pointers. They don't put the ball or the puck into the back of the net or hit taters into the hinterlands of the baseball and softball fields.

But they are as much a part of the AHS athletic community as all of the above. They are the Brownies varsity cheerleaders.

Kim Hebert is their coach. And she's proud of her team. "It's not easy being a coach of cheerleaders," she points out. "There's a lot involved in it. We have to learn to depend upon each other."

There is also a lot involved in becoming a cheerleader. "The girls have to be strong, athletic, and personable. They have to have a serious dedication to this sport. Remember," Ms. Hebert went on, "it's a long season. We go from the start of the year to the end of the year. The other sports go for only so long. Then they change."

Her goal when she took the job in 1993 was to have the best team ever at AHS. "You can't be a force in this sport with less than 15 people on the team. My first year, 22 tried out. This year, we had 37. All the routines we do are centered around the core group of 15 because that's the number you need for all the things we do at games and in competition. Some teams, like Chicopee Comp, have 22 members on their team."

"Twenty-two is the maximum number any team can have," Ms. Hebert noted. "Actually, our smaller numbers help somewhat. In competition the judges are looking for synchronization. Obviously, 22 people makes it harder to do that. Fifteen works fine for us."

The competition for a spot on the team is fierce. "I look for kids who have the fundamental skills: leapers, motion management, and dancers." Then she added, "But one thing that is most important is effort. They have to have it at all times, not just when I'm watching them. They have to be focused."

Spectacular But Dangerous Stunts...

There is an important reason why the team members must be focused—some stunts they do are spectacular but also dangerous. "When you are 10 feet in the air (with people holding you up), you'd better be totally into it," Ms. Hebert said.



MEMBERS OF THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL varsity cheerleaders, under the watchful eye of Coach Kim Hebert, have enjoyed another successful year in 1995-96. The girls recently completed their winter chores with the completion of the school's Winter Sports Season. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

That's where the trust and conditioning comes into play. "We work everyday on progression. That means getting confidence to work at higher and higher elevations. I won't allow anyone on this team to go higher than what is comfortable for them." Then she added, "The kids do it because they have complete trust in each other."

Cheerleading is an expensive sport. "We got new sets of football (sweater and skirt) and basketball (shell top and skirt) uniforms last year. They cost \$2,500 a set."

They go to a summer cheerleading camp every year in upstate New York. "It lasts four days. The kids pay for it out of pocket. The bus alone costs \$1,000," she noted.

Then there are the many tournaments they attend. "Because of the money aspect, we usually only go as far as Milford, Massachusetts," Ms.

Hebert said.

Unlike 'Comp, or some other area schools with big enough budgets to support cheerleading, AHS doesn't finance the team. "We raise our funds through candy sales, car washes, and other events," the coach said.

Do the cheerleaders make a difference? "I think so," Ms. Hebert answered. "We give it everything we have, whether our team is winning or losing."

What's the toughest sport to work? "Probably football or soccer," she said. "Those fields are long, so we're always on the run and moving. Basketball is different. Everything is so close—the fans, the players, the coaches. It seems we're right in the center of it all."

They practice three days a week for two hours. The rest of their time is taken up by games or competition. "It's a six-day-a-week job," Ms. Hebert noted.

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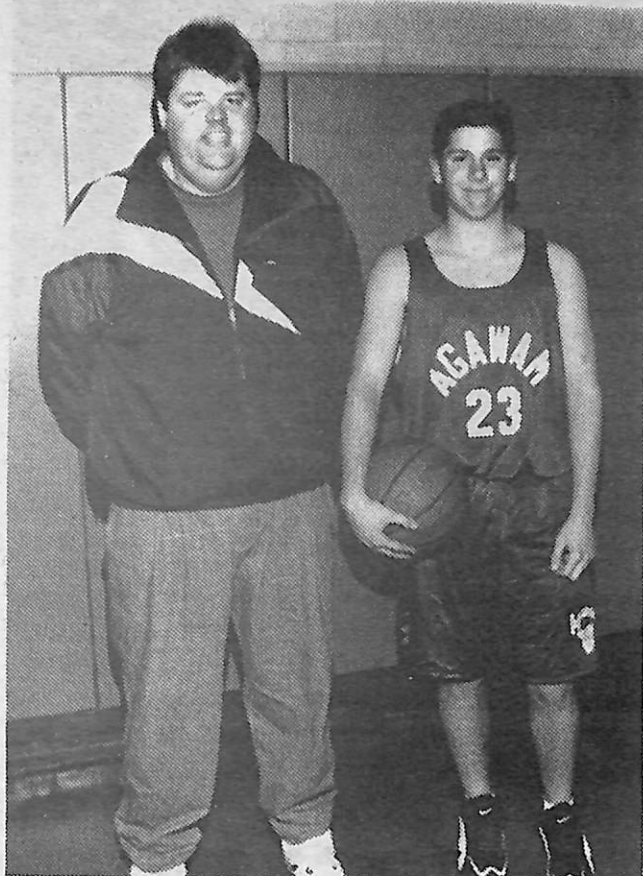
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AHS JV Boys' Hoop Looking To Future



AGAWAM HIGH junior varsity boys' hoop Coach Gary Eggleston with his 1995-96 captain, Brian O'Quinn. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Girls' Skiers Compete At Annual State Meet

Having qualified for the state championship for the 1996 ski season, the Agawam High School girls went as a team, and with two individual qualifiers.

The two girls that qualified individually were Jody Bulat and Kelly Grover. The remaining representatives were Jen Quigley, Jill Pavelcsyk, Gina Markowski, Meagan Moriarty, Jessica Ferris, and Jen Thibodeau.

The girls started the day with the slalom course, which brought major problems with it. The first two skiers for the team lost a ski halfway down the course, giving them no points for the slalom. The third racer for the team D.Q.'d on a tricky hairpin gate, also getting no points.

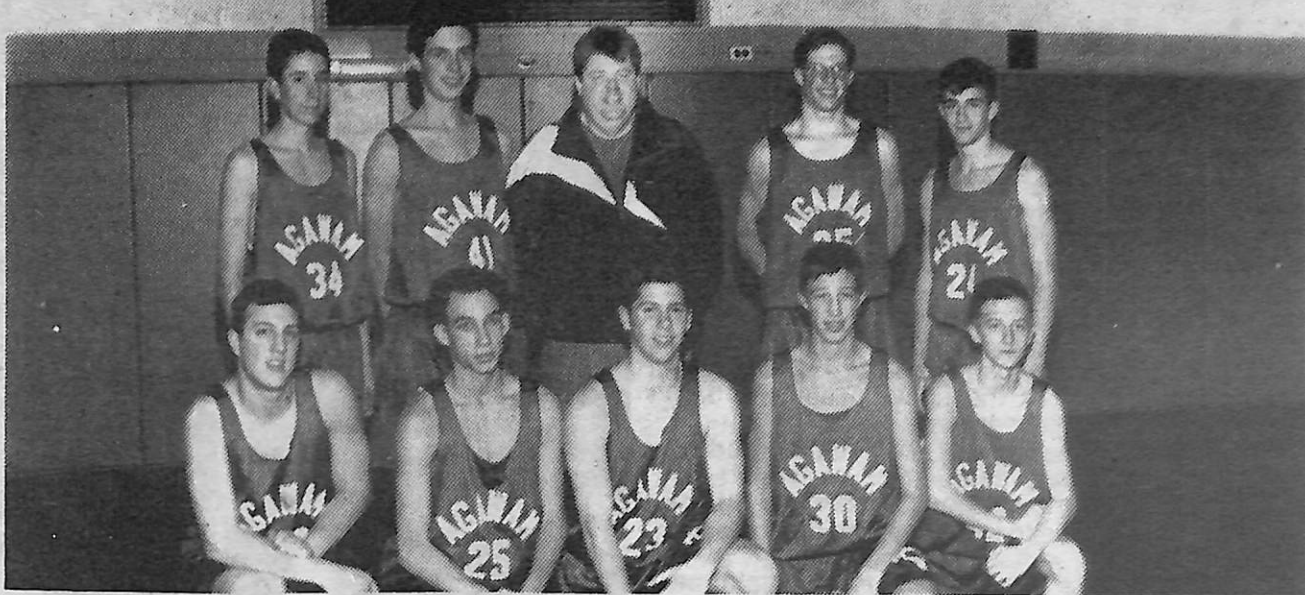
The next two racers finished the course, Gina Markowski finished 68th in the state, and Jill Pavelcsyk finished 83rd in the state. Because only two skiers finished out of the five starting, the team picked up no points in the slalom event.

The afternoon was more successful for the girls; it was the giant slalom run. The top time for the team was that of Jody Bulat with a time of 48.46, placing her 30th in the state.

The following times and placements are as follows: Kelly Grover, 54.25, 76th in the state; Jen Quigley, 55.32, 79th in the state; Jill Pavelcsyk, 58.67, 98th in the state; Gina Markowski, 58.68, 99th in the state, placing the team 15th in the state.

The state championships were a fitting experience to finish a very successful season with. The girls' ski program has always been a stronger finisher in the league, and looks to be a power in the league next year.

The girls would like to thank those people that were supportive throughout the season, both on and off the hill.



COACH GARY EGGLESTON and members of the Agawam High JV boys' hoop team recently ended their 1995-96 season. The team members are hoping to secure spots on the varsity next year. Back row, from left - Kevin Cornwell, Joe Henegan, Coach Eggleston, Ryan White, and Dave Thomas. Front row - Brian Gallagher, Jason Hanscom, Brian O'Quinn, Jeff Lyman, and Shawn Anderson. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Daggett Gold Medal Girls' Gymnastics Compete In Sectional Competitions

Members of Tim Daggett Gold Medal Gymnastics Girls' team have competed at two sectional meets the past two weekends. The Level 8, 9, and 10 gymnasts competed at Gym and More in Woburn on Sunday, February 25th. The Level 5 gymnasts competed on Sunday, March 4th at Berkshire Gymnastics in Pittsfield. Fourteen of the gymnasts qualified for MA USA Gymnastics State Meets that will take place in March and May.

Michelle Germano, 13, from West Springfield, was the first in the Level 10 (13-14 age group) All-Around (AA) with a score of 36.2. Michelle was first on vault (9.1), beam (9.3), and floor (9.0). She placed second on bars with a score of 8.8.

Five gymnasts competed in Level 9. Jaime Scott-Smith, 11, of Southwick, was the only competitor in the 8-11 age group. Jaime won with a 35.05 AA. She scored a 9.0 on beam, 8.9 on vault, 8.7 on floor, and a 8.45 on bars.

In the 12-13 age group, the first three all-around places were won by TDGMG gymnasts. Brynne Kennedy, 12, of Pittsfield, was first with a 34.35. Amy Reynolds, 12, of West Springfield, was second with a 34.1.

Kadee Bramley, 12, of South Windsor, CT, was third with a 33.8. Kadee was first on bars (8.1) and beam (9.15), and second on floor (8.75). Amy was first on vault (8.7) and third on bars (7.9), beam (8.8), and floor (8.7). Brynne won floor with a score of 9.0. She was second on vault (8.5), bars (7.95), and beam (8.9). Lindsey Hadden, 14, of Agawam, won third place in the all-around in the 14-15 age group.

Leila Sekkal, 13, of Feeding Hills won the all-around in the Level 8 (13-14) age group, with a

score of 33.6. Leila was first on vault (8.6) and beam (8.9). She was sixth on both bars (7.8) and floor (8.3).

Nine gymnasts competed at the Level 5 Sectional Meet. The gymnasts earn an achievement ribbon for their all-around score and earn individual places on each event.

Lisa DiRosa, 12, of Suffield, CT and Rebecca Langlands, 11, of West Springfield, competed in the 11-12 age group. Lisa scored a 33.9 AA with a first-place on bars (8.55), second on beam (8.4), and third on vault (8.4) and floor (8.55).

Rebecca scored a 32.85 AA with a second on bars (8.5), fourth on beam (7.8) and floor (8.35), and sixth on vault (8.2). In the 9-10 age group, Katie Farley, 9, of Windsor, CT, was first on both vault (8.4) and bars (8.95), second on floor (8.65), and sixth on beam (8.1) for a 34.1 AA.

Christine Hill, 10, of West Springfield, scored an AA of 32.6 with fourth place on both vault (8.3) and floor (8.5). Kellyn Palladino, 9, of Enfield, CT, had a 32.2 AA. She was third on both vault (8.4) and bars (8.3). Marjorie Moriarty, 9, of Ludlow was first on floor with a score of 8.9 and qualified with a 32.15 in the AA.

In the 7-8 age group, Jan Carlson, 8, of Vernon, VT, was first on vault (9.3) and bars (8.9), third on floor (8.45), and fifth on beam (7.7) for a 34.35 AA.

Michelle Guillerault, 8, of Enfield, CT, scored a 32.75 AA with a second on beam (8.4), third on vault (8.2), and fourth on bars (7.85) and floor (8.3). Rachel Humphrey, 8, of Simsbury, CT, was fifth on both bars (7.45) and floor (7.85) and sixth on vault (7.9) and beam (7.6).

The girls are coached by Joe Salmeri, Marina Vernaya, Tina Reis, and Pat Rooney.

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Sportsmen's Corner

—By Bill Chiba—

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Upcoming Activities Geared Towards Local Sportsmen

The Westfield Sportsmen's Club will hold small-bore rifle shoots and the Juniors' Easter ham shoots on March 10th, March 17th, and March 31st. The shoots are open to the public. For more information, call Sid Aguinaga at 789-1339 (days) or Steve Andras at 568-7570 (nights).

The Pioneer Valley Sportsmen's Club of West Springfield will hold lobster and ham shoots on its Sikes Avenue grounds starting at 12:00 noon every Sunday for six weeks. The public is invited.

A NRA Basic Pistol Safety Course will be held Saturday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Holyoke Revolver Club, the course will be conducted at the club's indoor range and feature skills, safety, and instruction. For more information, call 539-9345 and leave your address on the answering machine, or mail your address to: Holyoke Revolver Club, P.O. Box 543, Holyoke, MA 01041, Attn.: Safety Course. The fee is \$75, and a non-refundable \$25 deposit is required.

The Western Massachusetts Fly Fishermen will hold their 23rd annual fly fishermen's workshop on March 18th at 7:00 p.m. at the Polish American Citizens' Club on East Street, Ludlow. Page Rogers will present her slide show and narration on saltwater fly tying and fishing in the Northeast. There will be displays by area tackle dealers and manufacturers, as well as a tying demo. Admission is \$5; children under 12 years of age are free.

THINGS ARE CHANGING

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife is proud to announce that it will offer a weekend of outdoor skills for women in June of 1996. Girls rarely learn the outdoor skills, and then usually because of an enlightened father. The skills have tended to be handed down from father to son. But for women from traditional families or from families that were not active in field sports, there was/is often no way to acquire those skills.

"Becoming An Outdoorswoman" will offer an introduction to a wide variety of activities including basic fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, riflery, archery, canoeing, backpacking, orienteering, camping, camp cookery, nature photography, dog training, and much, much more. Coordinator Ellie Horwitz explains that the program will offer more than 20 different activities. Each participant will select and take part in four of them.

If you are a woman over age 18 who enjoys being outdoors, this workshop is for you, particularly if you ... have thought about trying some of these skills but didn't know how to get started; are a

novice and want to improve your skills; are proficient in some of these activities but would like to try others; live with an outdoor enthusiast and want to share outdoor activities but don't want to start out totally ignorant; and/or enjoy outdoor activities and want to meet other like-minded people.

"Becoming An Outdoorswoman" will be held in the beautiful Berkshire region. The dates are Friday, June 14th, through Sunday, June 16th. The cost for the weekend (including instruction, materials, meals, and lodging) is only \$190.

"Becoming An Outdoorswoman" is sponsored by the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife in cooperation with MVP Sports, New England Chapter, Safari Club, H&R 1871 Inc., Massachusetts Wildlife Federation, Savage Arms, and Gun Owners' Action League.

For information, call Ellie Horwitz, (508) 792-7270. To obtain registration materials, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: "Becoming An Outdoorswoman," c/o Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, One Rabbit Hill Road, Westborough, MA 01581.

Final figures for the 1995 deer hunting season are in and the DFW reports that a total of 11,343 deer were taken, making this the most successful season ever enjoyed by Bay State hunters.

Within the next few weeks, the Division will begin a survey of licensed hunters to determine where they hunted deer and how much time they spent doing it. The survey will be conducted in cooperation with the Department of Forestry and Wildlife at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Under a provision of the Clean Vessel Act, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is awarding \$9.4 million in grants to 33 states for projects nationwide to provide pump-out and dump stations for boats to dispose of waste in an environmentally safe manner.

Recreational boating is a multi-billion dollar business. Last year, some 77 million boaters who owned more than 16 million boats plied the waters of the United States.

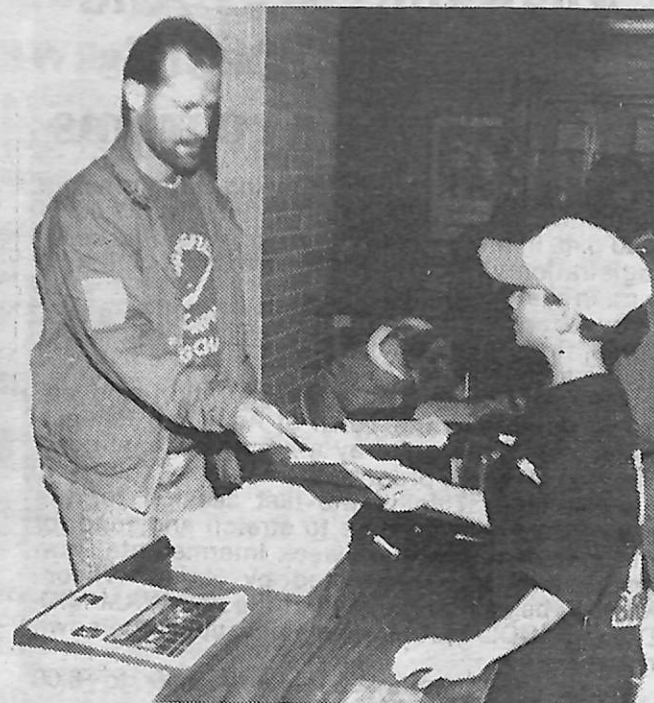
The projects selected for 1996 involve requests for construction of 938 pump-out stations and 470 dump stations in 33 states.

Massachusetts has been awarded \$990,000 to build 59 pump-out stations and three dump stations, and implement an education program. The Connecticut DEP asked to build 29 pump-out stations and implement an education program for their \$594,000 award.

All recreational vessels must have access to pump-outs funded under the Clean Vessel Act. NOAA will mark pump-out and dump station locations on its nautical charts. Halfway through the program, grants have been awarded to install 1,200 pump-out stations and 630 dump stations. A maximum fee of \$5 may be charged for use of pump-out facilities constructed or maintained with grant funds.

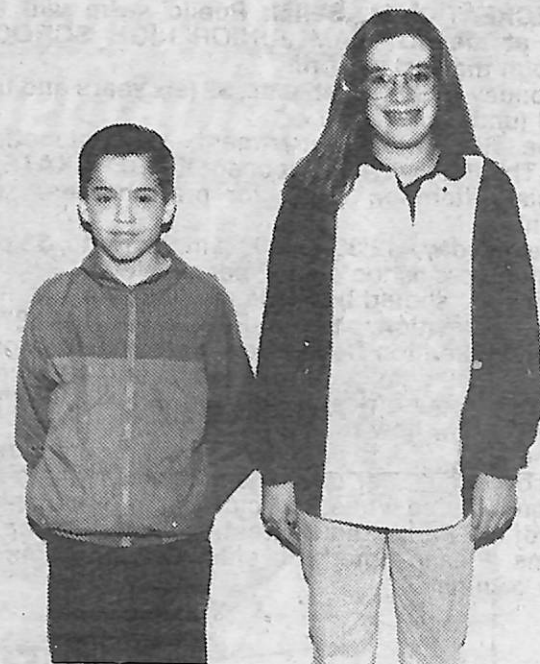
For information on pump-out and dump station locations, call 1-800-ASK-FISH. For further information, contact the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Federal Aid, Room 140 ARLSO, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22203, (703) 358-1845.

Thanks, Fred...



SACRED HEART ATHLETIC Association member Fred Perry signs-up Matt Rheault at the Parish Center for the spring/summer baseball season. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Top Phys. Ed. Students



MICHAEL FEDERICO and ASHLEY GUIEL were named "Physical Education Students of the Month" at the Agawam Junior High. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Agawam Parks And Recreation Dept.'s 1996 Spring Programs

Registration for the following programs is scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Recreation Office. After that date, registration will be taken from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Recreation Office.

Registration is limited and is offered on a first come, first served basis. Phone registrations will not be accepted.

All fees are required at registration and are made payable to the Town of Agawam. Release forms must be signed by a parent or legal guardian for all youth programs.

AEROBICS: This is the last session for the season. Now is the time to stretch and tone for the summer. This eight-week intermediate, low-impact workout (instructed by Karen Wilson-Mickey) begins March 25th at the AGAWAM MIDDLE SCHOOL. Participants must supply their own mats.

Monday/Wednesday/Thursday - 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., \$50 (eight weeks) or \$3 per night.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL: "Fun" recreational program begins April 8th and runs for six weeks at the AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

Monday - 6:45 to 8:45 p.m., \$15.

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL: Competitive, recreational program begins April 8th and runs for six weeks at the AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL.

Monday - 6:45 to 8:45 p.m., \$15.

RECREATIONAL SWIM: Public swim will be held at the AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL through the end of April.

Monday - 7:00 to 8:45 p.m., \$2 (six years and up) or \$1 (under six years).

The Recreation Department, in conjunction with The Rollaway, will sponsor **KINDERSKATE**, a special afternoon skate for pre-schoolers and parents.

Wednesday - 12:30 to 2:00 p.m.; parents, \$3 per session / pre-schoolers, \$2 per session.

Payment should be made at The Rollaway. For more information, call The Rollaway at 786-4875.

The Recreation Department welcomes persons with disabilities in all programs and services. Please call our office at 786-0400, ext. 456, so that we will know how to best serve you.

The Town of Agawam does not carry insurance to cover hospitalization or medical costs of anyone injured while participating in or watching any of our Parks and Recreation Department programs. Please note: you enter our programs at your own risk...

AHS Hockey Team Hoping Next Season Will Accelerate Rebuilding Process

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

It was another tough season for the Agawam High boys' hockey team. They were coming off a disappointing 3-12-1 1994-95 campaign. Many observers felt things could only get better. Those observers were obviously optimistic. The Brownie icemen went the other way, finishing up at 2-14-1. Their record was 0-7 in the tough Berry Division.

But a difficult season doesn't necessarily mean everyone turned in bad performances.

"Definitely not," Coach Fran Pycko observed. "We had some kids this year that stepped forward, despite the way things turned out."

One of them was sophomore defender Rich Feeley. "We needed some scoring punch, so we shifted him to offense," Pycko said. Feeley is big and tough with a defender's aggressive mind set. He'll hit anything that moves when he's on the ice. He also turned out to have a nice shot and ended up as the team's leading scorer (10 goals, 8 assists - 18 points).

"Our instincts about his ability to play offense proved correct. He was a nice surprise," the coach said.

He also had praise for sophomore defenseman Geoff Clak (9 goals, 3 assists - 12 points) and his linemate, sophomore Austin Kimball (4 goals, 6 assists - 10 points). "These guys worked so well together. Geoff is steady. Austin, besides being a good defender, has the best shot from the point on the team. Both of them have a lot of confidence. They're one of the best defensive pairs I've seen in a long time."

The coach's morale boosters were senior Matt Radwanski (3 goals, 4 assists - 7 points) on defense and junior defender Trevor Brown (5 goals, 8 assists - 13 points). "They never let our record get to us. They were upbeat all the way."

"Our greatest positive was the overall attitude of the team," the coach went on. "They had a good approach to the game and they never got down on themselves when they got behind."

The coach addressed some things that might have been negative influences. "Our record, some of the problems we had last season, and the practice times we had to deal with, didn't help up. Getting up at 4:00 in the morning to practice at 5:30 might have scared away some kids, too."

Coach Hopes Things Will Change Next Season
Pycko hopes that will all change next season. "The new Holyoke rink will open ice time for everyone. Maybe we'll be able to practice after school."

He notes that the team was young this year. "We'll have a lot of kids coming back. We think junior forward Joe Dupelle (1 goal, 4 assists - 5 points) is ready to carry his share of the scoring. We also feel that sophomore goaltender Chris Hern will make his presence known in the net."

Hockey is the most expensive sport a school can carry. "That's for sure," Pycko agrees. "It's the type of thing where you have to go all the way financially, or you won't have it. It's not an in-house sport because high schools just don't have their own rinks on campus. The kids and their parents supply 90 percent of their own equipment."

That equipment can cost up to \$1,000.

"We are really lucky at Agawam. (Athletic Director) Kathy McSweeney is 100-percent behind us," the coach noted. "She knows the game. And last year, when we were having some difficulties with some of the kids, she sat down with us and ironed out all the problems. I feel she wants hockey at this school."

Does The Coach Wish To Return Next Year?

This was the fourth year at the helm for Pycko. Does he want to come back? "Yes," he says. But he also admits that hockey, being such an emotional sport, takes something out of you. "I'm so attuned to these kids and everything that goes on involving them. There are the practices, the meetings, the organization of everything. Then there's my two year-old son, Duke. Obviously, at that age, he isn't into sports yet. He needs my time, too. It's all very intense during the season."

It might also be added that Pycko owns his own business, which demands time as well.

Like most Agawam coaches, he'd like to see his sport become as successful as the wrestling, girls' basketball, and girls' softball programs.

As is the tradition he started when he signed on, he and Assistant Coach John Cirelli will rent a limousine soon, take the seniors out, and spring for their dinner at a good restaurant in the area.

The coach laughed nervously. He knows how much the kids like to eat. "Two years ago, we took seven seniors out. This year, there are only three of them. We do it to thank them for everything they go through."

It's a nice gesture. The kids never let down or laid down or let their coaches down.

That's a good sign for the future of Agawam hockey.

Tri-Parish Bowlers Begin Month Of March With Solid Scores At Agawam Bowl

After two weeks of rolling in the third and final round of the Monday night Tri-Parish Bowling League, Boston College (7 wins) and Fordham (7 wins) are at the top of the Agawam Bowl circuit.

On Monday, March 4th, BC faced fifth place St. Mary's (4 wins). BC only had one winner, and that was Captain "Jungle" JIM MCCORMICK. "Jungle" was a 325-297 conqueror of St. Mary's Captain JOHN LONCRINI (99.51 in Men's AA). "Jungle" Jim is at 103.34 in Men's AA.

St. Mary's had three winners - leadoff RITA SCOTT (257, 85.4 in Women's C), VENETTA

SNYDER (296, 89.44 in Women's A), and FRANKIE CERPOVICZ (287, 98.19 in Men's A).

Eighth place St. Anselm's had the bye week on March 4th. The scores are as follows: LOU NAPOLITAN (260), DORIS FORTIER (267), YVONNE CHARTIER (306), and "Luscious" LOU MULDER (342).

In the next matchup, third place Catholic University (5½ wins) met sixth place St. Louis (4 wins). This was a fairly close match. St. Lou winners were leadoff AUDREY PHILLIPS, 267-266

over TAMMY VOGEL (Audrey is the leader in Women's C at 85.43); KIM LACROIX, 284-282 over MARY THOMAS (Kim is tops in Women's B at 94.9); and Captain GLEN ADAMS, a 354-329 winner over CU Captain BILL GRIFFIN. Adams is the top dog in Men's AA at 108.56 while Billy G. is fourth in Men's AA at 101.37.

The only winner for CU was third roller TOM "Not Tony" CURTIS (295, 103.39 in Men's AA).

That's all the scores reported for the Tri-Parish League to *The Advertiser News* this week.

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Games And Lanes Indoor Soccer Leagues (2nd Session Final Standings)

| U-12 BOYS | W L T P |
|--------------------|----------|
| *** Agawam Dynamos | 7 0 0 14 |
| * North Branch | 5 1 1 11 |
| Westfield | 4 3 0 8 |
| Agawam/Hearn | 1 5 1 3 |
| Hampshire United | 0 7 0 0 |

| U-14 BOYS | W L T P |
|------------------|----------|
| *** Berzerkers | 7 0 0 14 |
| * Tube Products | 5 1 1 11 |
| * Agawam Express | 4 3 0 8 |
| * Blue Devils | 3 3 1 7 |
| Agawam Intown | 1 3 3 5 |
| Revolution | 1 5 1 3 |
| Agawam Vipers | 1 6 0 2 |

| U-12 GIRLS | W L T P |
|---------------|----------|
| *** Berkshire | 7 0 0 14 |
| * Agawam | 5 2 0 10 |
| * Longmeadow | 1 6 0 2 |
| * Holyoke | 1 6 0 2 |

| U-17 BOYS HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION | W L T P |
|--------------------------------|----------|
| * Holyoke S.C. Green | 6 1 0 12 |
| *** Agawam Juniors | 6 1 0 12 |
| * Milne El Fuego | 4 3 0 8 |
| * Holyoke S.C. Gray | 2 4 1 5 |
| Agawam Intown | 2 4 1 5 |
| Westfield Bombers | 0 7 0 0 |

- *** Won Division Playoffs
* Teams Qualifying For Playoffs

Umpires Being Sought For Upcoming Baseball Season At Agawam Little League

The Agawam Little League is currently accepting applications for interested individuals to fill several vacant umpiring positions for the 1996 baseball season. The A.L.L. is particularly looking for umpires 16 years of age and older (especially adults) to officiate at Major League games involving 10 to 12 year-old players.

Two years ago, a major change in umpiring was introduced. All those umpiring for the Agawam Little League are now required to be certified. All umpires who were certified during 1994 or 1995, will not be required to repeat the certification program, but all others must do so in order to serve as an umpire for this year.

The Agawam Little League certification program comprises of attending a one eight-hour umpiring training session and a two-hour written ex-

amination, both of which will occur on two separate Saturdays during the latter part of March 1996. There is no charge for either of these sessions.

Fees to be paid this year will range from \$8 per game for base path umpiring in the Minor Division to \$12 per game for behind the plate work in the Major Division. Umpires are typically assigned one or two games each week during the season.

The 1996 season will begin in late April and run through the end of June. Games are scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on weekdays and on Saturday mornings.

In order to register, an applicant must be at least 16 years old by May 1, 1996 to umpire in the Majors.

Those interested in registering should contact Rick Hamre at 789-2818 before March 20th.

GIRLS' HOOP - from Page 32...

It was 48-47 Taconic with a minute left. Steinman got fouled twice and hit 3-4. The Brownies were down, 51-47. Bertone-Gross got one back off a foul under the offensive boards.

But the Brownie stretch run was mortally wounded at that point. They just weren't getting it done at the line in overtime.

Taconic had one field goal on three shots during that period. Agawam went 1-7.

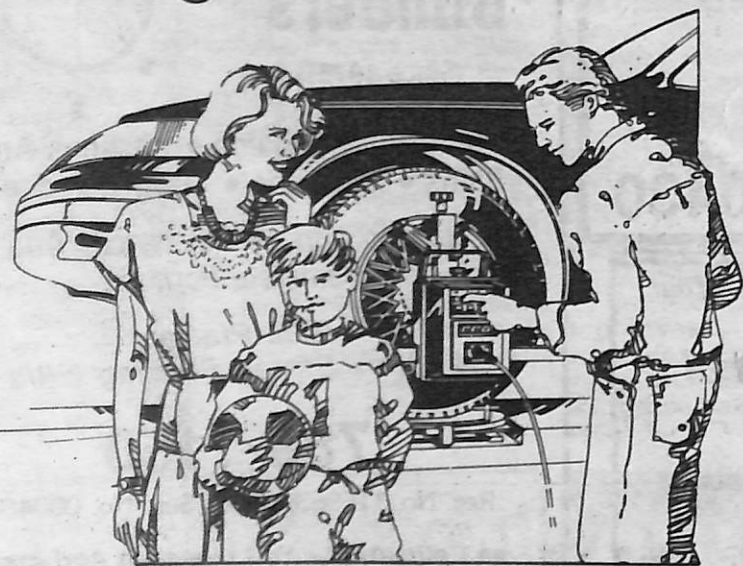
But the Lady Braves went 6-8 from charity land. Agawam went 3-8. Both teams had two OT rebounds. Agawam had two OT turnovers. Taconic had three.

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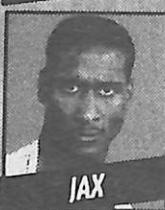
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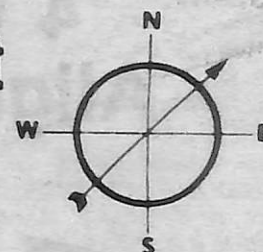
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